BACK PAGE

Pawnbrokers go all out to create a more acceptable public image

The story of the beds which once had to be pawned at carnival time in a Rhineland town antices only an apologetic smile from commitee members at the central association of the pawnbrokers' association in this country.

Nowadays about two-thirds of their 100-million-Mark annual turnover comes from pawned jewellery, cameras and cine-apparatus. Despite this pawnbrokers at the meeting of their association in Bad Pyrmont went out of their way to free their trade from the last vestiges of the old, dark trade and the smell of poor people which used to permeate their establishments.

Alfred Schmidt, acting chairman of the association still remembers the bad old days in the midst of a hard Berlin winter when his father used to run their pawnbroker's shop. He is now running his family business into the third generation. The biskest trade is no longer done during the winter months when farmworkers are redundant but before and after the summer holidays.

Turnover starts to climb again from November onwards when the Christmas bonus is in sight but has not yet been paid.

Gustav Struck, president of the pawnbrokers' association, claims that customers come with pledges from all professions including bank managers. The members of this association are the 124 owners of private pawnbroking shops.



Apart from them there are about 20 outsiders and 17 large pawnbroking concerns.

In order to preserve their image in the public eye the pawnbrokers cannot afford jount advertising, but keep themselves in a competitive position with regard to big banks using personal advertising slogans such as, "Credit – anything from five to 5,000 Marks".

1968 showed an upward trend largely because the average pledge had risen from twenty Marks in the early fifties to between eighty and one hundred Marks.

Gustav Struck said; "It is not poor people who come but those who always have insufficient money no matter how much they earn."

His supply of cameras and cine equipment only dwindles at Christmas time and during the holiday season. "Apart from at these times people hardly ever take photographs, and so photographic equipment is just as superfluous as a mink in summer."

But besides fur coats pawnbrokers hardly ever accept second-hand clothes. They are as good as valueless. In fact 85 per cent of clients redeem their pledges but the other fifteen per cent are a real headache. If the pawnbroker has paid too much he must bear the loss himself. If the pledges when auctioned off bring a surplus this must be paid in part to the client. Such surpluses in fact usually go the the State if the client has not come re redeem his belongings within two years.

In Berlin alone this brings in about 45,000 Marks annually.

For the past year the flood of customers to the pawnbroker's shop has been stemmed and turnover is dropping.

Struck says, "The banks are starting to remember the little man. "The opportunity for the bank customer to overdraw on his current account and a corresponding increase in advertising by the banks is forcing pawnbrokers to fight for their position in the credit market.

Struck's recipe is to say goodbye to the old 'junk shops' and to make pawnbrokers's shops much more like a bank branch. He himself has long since followed this policy in a Rhineland city. His premises are, of course, furnished with rosewood. In this way he has managed to push his turnover well above the average. Many of his fellow pawnbrokers believed that they had wandered into the first floor of a large block of offices. Struck's pawnbroker's shop breaks down the anxiety barrier and helps his clients feel more at home.

Gustav Struck says that many clients come to him every day who have been faced with, for example, an exce[...] ally high repair bill from a local ga[...] and who have to get money in a hu[...] pledging a watch or a ring.

The fact that credit can be obta[...] readily from a pawnbroker usually [...] people ignore the question of inter[...] other charges. Very often cus[...] come from the ranks of those wh[...] to obtain credit from a bank but are embarrassed to ask their employer [...] statement of income.

Interest rate are one per cent m[...] and charges are between two and [...] and-a-third per cent.

Although this profession is hig[...] pectable the public still tends [...] prejudiced against the pawnbrok[...] tav Struck has recently become a [...] of a golf club.

(DIE WELT, 22 Septem[...])

Three loud cheers for the posts!

Eighty per cent of people in [...] country give unlimited praise to [...] achievements of the Federal Posts [...] their employees.

A representative survey carried out [...] the Emnid Institute in Bielefeld in [...] and August this year showed that only about ten per cent judged the Posts to be "fairly good", "by and large satisfactory" and "fairly punctual".

Only one or two per cent of people asked criticised postal charges, delay[...] deliveries and inefficient service at post office counters.

(Hannoversche Presse, 20 September 19[...])

The German Tribune

Hamburg, 21 October 1969
Eighth year – No. 393 – by air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

C 20725 C

China thinks again and talks with Moscow

A number of armchair strategists may have lamented the news of frontier talks between Moscow and Peking as a sad blow to fond hopes. The final sentence of the Chinese statement should reassure them. "Irreconcilable differences of opinion on matters of principle exist between China and the Soviet Union," it reads, "and the ideological struggle will continue for some time to come."

The mutual decision to negotiate, it must be added, cannot, what is more, but be welcomed by people who hope to gain by China's moves on the world stage.

Tension between Moscow and Peking, regarded by would-be beneficiaries with more or less frank satisfaction, has reached a point where there was reason to fear that the dispute might go beyond politics.

In the event of war occurring somewhere or other even outsiders generally retain little political leeway and sooner or later matters get out of even the most skilful, diplomatic hand.

If the fairly consistent reports are correct the Rubicon was all but crossed before diplomacy was reactivated Moscow is rumoured to have threatened a pre-emptive strike against budding

IN THIS ISSUE

nuclear power China. The threat was obviously credible.

Peking coming to heel is a reminder that this close state, on the defensive on virtually all sides, is able to hold diplomatic talks after all and is not running amok.

Yet even before Premier Kosygin's visit to China there were a number of signs that this was the case. The first of them made their appearance at the end of 1968, after the cultural revolution had come to an end. Their number has since increased.

This spring a number of ambassadors were despatched to Chinese embassies where the post had been vacant. There is talk of diplomatic relations with Canada and Italy.

Observers are, however, of the opinion that agreement will be more difficult to reach now than when General de Gaulle established diplomatic ties.

At that stage Peking could expect Nationalist China to break with France of its own accord, which, of course, it did, so avoiding two China status difficulties. Formosa would not necessarily now react in the same way.

Peking also appears to remain interested in maintaining fragile contact with the United States via Warsaw.

Rapprochement between Moscow and Washington, which was most recently documented by the draft seabed test-ban treaty and continues to be on both governments' agendas, makes Peking feel it advisable to keep a diplomatic eye on its most-hated, capitalist, imperalist enemy.

In the Far East Russia is endeavouring to improve its position and occupy the gaps left by modification of past American policy.

China, tormented by an encirclement complex, must be following the proceedings with mixed feelings but it also sees an opportunity in the opposites that meet as a result of the present mutual rapprochement between the two nuclear giants.

In this context Japan deserves consideration. Even without corresponding military potential Japan's economic might makes it anything but a plaything in the hands of the other side.

Will Peking begin of its own accord to play a larger role on the international political stage?

One is hesitant to make forecasts about a country that only a matter of years ago surprised the world with an introspective, largely irrational and self-destructive campaign going under the name of cultural revolution.



Bookseller's Prize

Alexander Mitscherlich was awarded the Booksellers' Association Prize for this year, worth 10,000 Marks. The Prize was handed to him in the historic Paulskirche in Frankfurt. Professor Mitscherlich is director of the Sigmund Freud Institute in Hesse and Professor of Psychology at Frankfurt University. Federal President Gustav Heinemann was present when the Prize was handed to Professor Mitscherlich. In his acceptance speech the Professor said *"a new understanding of peace must be created"*. *Werner Stichnote (right), president* of the Booksellers' Association, is here seen handing over the Prize. (Photo: dpa)

Rationally a China shielded by foreign policy and a defensive military policy that is unquestionably in a position to guarantee the security of a population of 750 million ought mainly to be interested in repairing the damage caused by the cultural revolution.

It ought also to bear in mind that the revered Mao Tse-tung, the man who holds the whole show together, may have appeared at the jubilee parade but will not be at the country's disposal for much longer.

In China itself, even, such radiation has been felt to be dangerous, occasionally being classified by a name better known in the West, that of anarchism.

Nikolas Benckiser
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 October 1969)

Vietnam and Washington

President Nixon is preparing a new move on Vientam. The White House is making the coming and going of Vietnam experts among diplomats and military men so plain to see that curiosity is everywhere increasing.

To what extent, one wonders, is the new wave of activity due to domestic policy pressure scheduled to peak in demonstrations and sympathy strikes arranged in concerted effort by all opponents of the war?

There are certainly no visible signs of motives that might have originated among the Vietcong or in Hanoi, unless the decline in fighting is not simply due to new US tactics and a temporary communist desire not to disturb developments in the United States.

Signs from Hanoi would make President Nixon's course easier but he is unlikely to be irritated already by their non-appearance.

No one in Washington will expect the alternative of either negotiations or Vietnamisation of the war to impel the Communists to negotiate immediately. The path midway between hawk and dove needs a great deal of patience and consistency. Pressure from within does not make it any easier to tread.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 October 1969)

New Bonn government alarms no one

Allies, friends and neighbours are thinking over the new Federal government due to take over power shortly. The coalition of Social and Free Democrats is first and foremost our own business. The Allies, on the other hand, are duty bound to check the coalition for continuity in partnership.

By and large no one abroad sees any cause for alarm but no one, for that matter, imagines that there will be no changes whatsoever. There is much talk of a turning-point in the Bonn political landscape.

Neighbouring France, by virtue of the consultation treaty more closely linked with this country than any other, is doing a thorough job of assessing prospects for the immediate future.

France is going through a post-de Gaulle period, is feeling rather worried about the franc and has it hands full with its own new society. As in the General's days worried glances are cast at this country's economic power. How high will the new Bonn team want to bid Germany's economic potential? Have not the Free Democrats frequently and unambiguously criticised Bonn's policy towards France and France's own policies, particularly towards European integration?

A number of French observers suspect that Britain might occupy more of Bonn's time than would be good for Franco-Federal Republic cooperation.

These and similar misgivings should not be lightly dismissed. They reflect not only French national interest but also well-founded conviction of the necessity of Franco-Federal Republic cooperation.

Chancellor Brandt will be as convinced of the necessity as Foreign Minister Brandt was. The formula coined by M. Pompidou and since adopted by Willy Brandt is not one of privileged cooperation but of exemplary cooperation. This qualification was made so that third parties would not be put off and grow envious. Let us hope there is nothing more to it.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 11 October 1969)

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SPD/FDP defence policy statement awaited

Industriekurier

Expectantly this country and the world at large await the policy statement of a new Federal government coalition of Social (SPD) and Free Democrats (FDP). Security and defence policy must be the most tensely awaited.

Fortunately the views of the two parties differ little on these topics. The policy pursued so far by Foreign Minister Brandt will be continued with added *emphasis and important steps towards detente can be expected.*

The basis of all considerations is Nato. On the basis of the North Atlantic alliance and the security it provides a number of new ideas are conceivable. The future government will, of course, need to consult its allies before undertaking any far-reaching measures.

The new government will have to base its plans on the Nato precepts according to which the North Atlantic pact fulfils a dual role, guaranteeing security on the one hand and promoting relaxation of tension on the other.

Future Federal Chancellor Brandt refers to the June 1968 Reykjavik declaration of the Nato Council of Ministers calling for a balanced reduction in troop strength on both sides. Willy Brandt would like to make Europe a detente *zone prior to the signing of a European* peace settlement.

In the process the new government will probably continue the exchange of views with the Soviet Union and press ahead with the policy of mutual renunciation of the use of force or non-aggression pacts between all European countries, including the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic.

Details of a new security policy were outlined by Helmut Schmidt at the SPD defence policy forum in Bad Honnef at the end of April 1969. Still valid, they can bboutlined in four points.

– Detente policy calls for defensive defence. A defensive basic structure of the armed forces is therefore essential.

– The political task and the military meanmust bear some relation to one another.

– As long as there is no disarmament security depends to a large extent on Nato. Maintenance of and loyalty to the alliance are necessary.

– This country's security must not be made exclusively dependent on Nato, however, as the alliance is no longer as *capable of functioning as it once was.* The Federal Republic's security interests must be adapted to continually changing situations. More powerful development of Bonn's own political and strategic machinery is necessary.

Detente is the basis of the FDP's security policy too. At the Free Democrats' defence policy congress in Koblenz at the end of 1968 Walter Scheel, Foreign Minister to be, called for a European security system to be underwritten by the United States and the Soviet Union and to consist of three phases. In the first the fuse must be taken out of differences of opinion, in the second political measures undertaken and in the third the substance of the two pacts altered.

SPD and FDP have also reached agreement on defence policy and the future leadership of the Bundeswehr. A key issue is that of fair play for conscripts, a topic that has interested parliament and the general public for years without a satisfactory solution having been reached.

Both parties will base their policies on the findings of the commission that reported on the subject in summer 1968. A number of proposals suggested have already been put into effect, others – a *special* tax for those who do not do national service, for instance – are rejected by the SPD. Support measures for ex-conscripts, though, are approved of by all concerned.

Sliding military service of fifteen months instead of the present year and a half is another interesting proposal. It would represent a 25-per-cent increase in the number of conscripts needed and 45,000 more youngsters could be called up.

The success of this proposal depends, however, on a solution having been found to the shortage of officers and NCOs and a larger number of men having enlisted.

One-year military service, as demanded by the Free Democrats, is hardly practicable. The coalition will commission fundamental analyses before making any changes. These may produce entirely different results. At alevents greater use should be made of the reserve strength.

As regards nuclear weapons the situation remains the same as at present. According to the Social Democrats, who have gained approval for their point of view, the Bundeswehr cannot at the moment dispense with missiles within the Nato framework. They could be dispense with if the other side were willing to disarm in the same manner.

In future the new government intends to place less emphasis on nuclear armament than on other weapons systems. This represents a continuation of principles going back to the Nato flexible response strategy.

(Industriekurier, 7 October 1969)

Limiting the seabed as a battlefield

Installations of one kind or another, including military, on the seabed are no longer the privilege of science fiction. Experiments are already in progress and a preliminary stage has been reached.

Even so the possibility of a war with weapons of mass destruction being waged from the seabed belongs to the remoter future. Viewed from this angle the draft seabed test-ban treaty submitted to the Geneva disarmament conference is not of immediate significance.

What is more, territorial waters within the twelve-mile zone are to be excluded and submarines, even the most up-to-date categories equipped with the latest weapons, are not in the least affected by the terms of the treaty. It has no bearing on naval warfare.

The treaty, if signed, would have no effect whatsoever on present risks and dangers. Like the non-proliferation treaty it is intended only to forestall a conceivable arms race of a new kind.

It has nothing to do with disarmament. At best it can be said indirectly to hold forth the promise that the superpowers might approach armas limitations from the extreme limit of arms possibilities.

This is not much when it is borne in mind that the same superpowers pledged themselves in the non-proliferation treaty to disarm. It is disappointing that they have chosen to revert to the seabed rather than fulfill this undertaking. The issue is too serious for derision.

The draft is significant nonetheless. Not in its content but in the fact that it is a joint Soviet-American draft and a compromise in which both sides have sacrificed part of their original demands.

The strategic arms limitation talks between Washington and Moscow are an alarmingly long time in coming about and independent multiple warheads represent a new danger.

If the draft is but a substitute for the major dialogue, the security of the world is in a bad way. If it is a preliminary to the dialogue, a move designed to bridge the gap, then all hope is not lost.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 October 1969)

Moscow pins high hopes on next Bonn government

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Pravda has great hopes of the formation of a Social and Free Democrat coalition in Bonn. One might almost think that the change of government was taking place in Moscow.

The central organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union hopes the new Federal government will take concrete terms positive steps towards normalisation of relations with socialist countries.

The observer can but rub his eyes in disbelief. If *Pravda* is to be taken at its word these hopes represent a complete volte-face.

Newspaper readers in this country still recall the shrill tones in which Soviet propaganda daily lambasted the past and systematic efforts of the Grand Coalition goverment to bring about this normalisation.

Days ago efforts of this kind were, in Moscow's eyes, scantily camouflaged attempts to split the socialist camp by subversive means. The Kremlin has yet to forgive the Rumanians for allowing themselves to be seduced into establishing diplomatic relations by these dangerous siren calls.

Moscow has taken good care to ensure that this terrible example of normalisation does not catch on in other communist countries.

It would be easy to ascertain whether or not the *Pravda* commentary really represents a change of heart on the part of the Soviet government. The newly-appointed Foreign Minister need only make it clear in his first interview with Soviet ambassador Tsarapkin that the new Federal government would like nothing better than to fulfill *Pravda's* hopes of normalisation by establishing diplomatic relations with the remaining Eastern European countries.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 7 October 1969)

Russia-China frontier clashes used as a pawn in a bigger game

Hsinhua's announcement that frontier talks are shortly to take place between Moscow and Peking no longer came as a surprise. China has long – since well before the meeting between Premiers Kosygin and Chou En-lai at Peking airport – been ready to negotiate on the basis of the status quo.

Despite this state of affairs the situation on the Sino-Soviet frontier has repeatedly taken a dramatic turn with armed clashes and negotiations have been nowhere in sight.

The nature of the clashes in the disputed areas is still not clear, neither is it clear who has been mainly responsible on each occasion.

There can, however, be no doubt that during the period when Moscow was mainly concerned to isolate Peking and stem the tide of Chinese influence on international Communism the Soviet Union eagerly seized on the frontier incidents as evidence of the irrational way in which the Chinese leadership was alleged to behave.

Since last April at least and the Ninth Congress of the Chinese Communist Party at which stock was taken of the cultural revolution Peking's interests have been entirely tho opposite.

As early as May the Chinese government declared that it considered the present frontiers to be unfair and called the Soviet government to admit the historic injustice of the frontiers imposed on China by the Tsars.

At the same time Peking noted that Soviet citizens had now made their homes in what were once Chinese territories and that there was no intention on China's part of expelling them. The Chinese goverment was accordingly prepared on the basis of the existing frontiers to open negotiations on the prevention of frontier incidents and other frontier regulations.

In Soviet propaganda this aspect of China's attitude has been played down for months. The impression has been maintained that it has always been the Chinese who have shunned negotiations on a reasonable basis.

This shows up the uncertainty of the Soviet politbureau, which neither wants to admit – even verbally – that the Chinese viewpoint has a certain justification nor would like to relinquish the useful argument that China is pursuing adventurous policies.

(DER TAGESSPIEGEL, 8 October 1969)

The German Tribune

PUBLISHER:
Friedrich Reinecke

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Eberhard Wagner

ASSISTANT EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Otto Heinz

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUB-EDITOR:
Geoffrey Penny

GENERAL MANAGER:
Heinz Reinecke

Published by:
Reinecke Verlag GmbH
23, Schoene Aussicht, Hamburg 22
Tel.: 2-20-12-56 · Telex: 02-14733

Advertising-rates list No. 6


Printed by:
Krögers Buch- und Verlagsdruckerei.
Hamburg-Blankenese

All articles which THE GERMAN TRIBUNE reprints are published in cooperation with the editorial staffs of leading newspapers of the Federal Republic of Germany. They are complete translations of the original text, in no way abridged or editorially redrafted.

In all correspondence please quote your subscription number, which appears on the wrapper to the right of your address.

HOME AFFAIRS

New career for CDU – opposition

Power wears a party out. It can also keep it young. Both contentions are no doubt correct. It is merely a question of the state the party is in. All are agreed, on the other hand, that opposition is hard work. Wasted words do wear out and the greatest danger for the opposition is that of bitterness at the electorate's consistent refusal to honour its efforts.

No one can predict how long the Bonn Christian Democrats' march through the slough of opposition will be. Optimists in the CDU itself reckon that the political wedlock of Social (SPD) and Free Democrats (FDP) will be easy to upset and soon on the rocks – not, perhaps, in its first or second year but definitely before the next general election.

State assembly elections, the optimists maintain, could make a splendid contribution to the decay of the coalition. The pessimists, on the other hand, feel that the march will be long and tough, lasting until well beyond the 1973 elections. Where the SPD gains power it is, they say, virtually impossible to dislodge. The SPD is too skilled at manipulating the machinery of power.

You will see, both sides claim. Wagers are being made.

For the time being, at any rate, the CDU and, though to a lesser extent, the CSU, its Bavarian affiliate, are going through a crisis. The symptoms are well-known. Urban losses were serious. On 28 September the CDU was virtually run out of Hamburg and Cologne.

A large part of the intelligentsia have openly turned their backs on the CDU, while the SPD has made progress among higher-paid salaried workers and the CDU is rapidly being forced back into the countryside.

It is also swiftly losing sympathy among younger voters, and it must be borne in mind that the 1969 elections were the last time a large proportion of over-sixties will be voting and that by the next elections the minimum voting age will almost certainly be eighteen.

The CDU has escaped disaster by the skin of its teeth. Analysis of the voting reveals that it only maintained its share of the vote by means of the way in which it set up Chancellor Kiesinger as a symbol, contrasting him with Willy Brandt. In other words, the CDU posed as the party of the Chancellor again.

This doubtless won it the votes that retained it (together with the CSU) the position as strongest individual party. Had the CDU been without its Chancellor the party would probably have done less well. The father figure image worked once again. But the paradox is that what was an advantage in the election represents the writing on the wall for the organisation.

The CDU, it is said, must and will regenerate itself. The question is: how? Unlike the SPD the CDU possesses a well-oiled party machine neither at national nor regional or constituency level.

The Cristian Democrats governed with the aid of the specialist knowledge of Ministerial and lobby staff. It will continue for some time to benefit from this knowledge. Twenty years of friendly relations cannot be reversed in as many days.

When all is said and done, though, specialist knowledge and interest tend in the long run to turn to the men in power, that is, the SPD, provided it is still in office.

In opposition the CDU's strength will prove a weakness. It has been and remains a party of respected public figures rather than an organisation based on its membership. And so it will take longer and prove more difficult to keep the various and contradictory groups in the fold.

While in power the CDU benefited from being in office and being able to grant one group or the other subsidies or assistance of some other kind. In opposition this will prove more difficult, particularly as the new government will no doubt continue the practice of keeping its associates happy by means of small perquisites.

No gift of prophecy is needed to forcast grave and bitter disputes in the CDU between the pragmatic, public-figure, victory-assured older generation and the younger generation of liberal conservative reformers. There is even a left wing of the CDU that may one day overtake the co-governing FDP on the left and prove a great embarrassment to it.

A mere glance at population trends – from country- to city-dwellers, from elementary to secondary school education, from unskilled to skilled trades and professions, from immobility to mobility – shows that the CDU will have to do far more than provide positive answers to past shortcomings and present necessities.

Conservative caution as regards unconsidered experiments they are at liberty to maintain bit the opposition will need far more arguments than appeals to the emotions.

Hans Heigert

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 9 October 1969)



Autumn hunting scene

(Cartoon: Marie Marcks/Süddeutsche Zeitung)

CDU party needs party machine

Hesse Christian Democratic leader Alfred Dregger declared in Wiesbaden on 8 October that the CDU must make use of the change of power in Bonn to build up an effective party organisation at all levels, including national.

When the party chairman and Federal Chancellor and national executive and Federal Cabinet were one and the same the party could not fail to be little more than an appendage of the Chancellor's Office and the Federal government.

Under Herr Kiesinger's leadership the executive must be gone over with a fine-toothed comb. The CDU, Dr Dregger maintained, needs an efficient central office and a political concept embracing central government, states and local authorities.

In particular, local authorities must be regained after the losses sustained at the hands of the Social Democrats over the past ten years. Without a strong position in the states and local authorities, particularly in the towns, the CDU, its Hesse leader maintained, would have a hard time regaining power in Bonn.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 9 October 1969)

SPD/FDP have right to form government

Argument as to who really won the general election will no doubt continue until well after the Brandt-Scheel government has been sworn in. While the losers of the election, the Free (FDP) and National Democrats (NPD), were clear on election night the Christian (CDU/CSU) and Social Democrats (NPD), were clear on election night the Christian (CDU/CSU) and Social Democrats (SPD) are still disputing the victor's crown.

Well-meaning mediators have suggested that the SPD was the winner and the CDU/CSU the victor of the election. What a compromiseNot only do common sense and usage make it difficult to distinguish between the two, they could just as well be used the other way round – which all goes to show how dubious the distinction is.

In point of fact the CDU/CSU combination emerged from the elections with the greatest number of seats and a million more votes than the SPD but unless the indications are deceptive they are going to lose when the Chancellor is voted into office.

At first glance this sounds paradoxical and the contradiction may well give rise to a fateful conflict about the legitimation of the government-to-be, a dispute unique in the post-war annals of this coun.

Let us recapitulate. O28 September the CDU/CSU sustained a loss of 1.5 per cent of the votes in relation to its 1965 performance while the SPD gaine3.4 per cent and promptly claimed it was the winner. In fact, though, the CDU/CSU remained the strongest single party by far Because this was the electorate's will, the CDU maintains, it should nominate the Chancellor.

There is somthing in this line of reasoning. Once every four years, Basec Law rules, the electorate vote into office approximately 500 individual members of

Is, as Rhineland-Palatinate Premier Helmut Kohl claimed in a recent issue of *Stern* magazine, the moral authority of an SPD-FDP coalition forfeit from the word go because of deception? Is it based on manipulation and disregard for the will of the electorate? The post-war history of the Federal states shows that there has been more than one instance of a coalition government being formed leaving the strongest party (which has been the SPD) in opposition. A Brandt-Scheel administration need not worry about accusations of not being legitimate.

the Bundestag, but in reality the general elections have long been virtually a vote of confidence or no confidence in the Chancellor.

Ever so, in all probability a CDU Chancellor will not be elected. Yet the hand-over of power aimed at by the SPD and the FDP is nonetheless absolutely legitimate.

Both parties can, in forming a government, refer to the passage in Basic Law according to which members of the Bundestag – even when electing the Chancellor – are subject only to their own conciences, even if the voters had someone else in mind.

The will of the electorate is a patient creature and can be interpreted in almost any way the inter preter chooses. Since 28 September it has no longer been of immediate consequence. It then passed to the elected representatives.

In fact, then the CDU/CSU's claim to the right as the strongest party to form the new government has fallen between two constitutional stools: the unwritten law of the Chancellor plebiscite and the written stipulation that members of the Bundestag once elected are responsible to their consciences only.

The attitude of the SPD and the FDP accords with the letter and the spirit of Basic Law while the CDU can but refer to constitutional practice which so far has been registered in rather shame-faced fashion by the general public as a not quite text-book divergence from the representative principle embodied in Basic Law.

The CDU's accusation that the SPD robbed it, as it were, of its first-born right to form the new government can only really apply to election night itself, on which the SPD as the second-largest party assumed the privilege of marking the first move in forming a new government instead of allowing the largest party to start the ball rolling.

This, however, was nothing more than an undefinable stylistic error. Basic Law makes no hard and fast provisions for the formation of a new goverment. The Brandt-Scheel government cannot be branded as illegitimate on this score.

The repetition of a conflict of this kind could only be avoided if the constitution or the lawmakers were to make an unambiguous decision in favour of either a Presidential system by which the Chancellor would be elected (this of course would mean an entirely new constitution) or a system of representative government ensuring clear majorities, that is, the introduction of a system of majority voting.

The unparallelled occurence of a loser of the election (the Free Democrats, who were reduced to the absolute minimum representation in the Bundestag) being able to decide the constitution of the new government regardless of the will of the electorate is an argument in favour of the majority constituency vote – which in the circumstances is less likely to be introduced than ever.

Dirk Bavendamm

(DIE WELT, 9 October 1969)

■ POLITICS

The political make-up of the Bundesrat

WHAT CAN BE MANIPULATED AND WHERE?

Indignation is the mood in the Villa Reizenstein in Stuttgart where the Prime Minister of Baden-Württemberg has his residence.

While talks in Bonn between the Social Democrats (SPD) and the Free Democrats (FDP) have been branded by the Christian Democrats (CDU) as manipulation the CDU has offered the FDP other forms of manipulation.

Long-term agreements to attract the FDP into a coalition with the CDU would most probably include alterations in the Federal states – to the favour of the FDP of course.

This affects the situation in Baden-Württemberg. But when this offer was planned the leaders of the CDU in Bonn did not think to consult the Prime Minister, Hans Filbinger (CDU), not even the two Swabians, Kurt Georg Kiesinger and Bruno Heck.

Filbinger was angry and demanded why he should dissolve his efficient coalition with the SPD just because of the changesäin Bonn. A spokesman in Stuttgart called it gross idiocy.

The Bundesrat, the upper house in the Federal Republic, is admittedly a legislative organ for the whole country. If its political composition was different to the governing majority in the Bundestag considerable difficulties could arise. Representatives of the Federal states could prevent laws being put into practice or slow their passage considerably. They could reject a bill, invoke a mediation *committee, call in experts to look into* the issue or even take the whole affair to the constitutional court.

All Federal governments, from Adenauer's cabinet which had a CDU/CSU majority behind it to the Grand Coalition under Kiesinger, placed great store on the fact that the voting proportions of the representatives of the Federal states should correspond roughly to the figures in the Bundestag. Baden-Württemberg has often had to orientate itself reluctantly to wishes from Bonn.

These attempts do not correspond exactly to the ideals of a political primer. According to all the rules the Federal authorities should stick to Federal affairs, leaving the states with a degree of autonomy. But in the practical world of politics it is different and people should not turn up their noses at this. Respective oppositions aim to obtain as much support in the Bundestag as possible.

As long as the Federal government consists of a Grand Coalition it can always reckon with a large majority in the Bundesrat. Smaller coalitions have a harder time of things. There now follows a survey on the present political landscape of the Bundestag.

The government of Schleswig-Holstein is formed by representatives of the CDU and FDP. The SPD is in opposition. Its thirty seats are not enough to form a coalition with the FDP against the CDU. The present CDU government needs the votes of the FDP and cannot go into the Bundesrat and oppose an SPD/FDP coalition.

In Hamburg and Bremen the SPD has an absolute majority. No changes are expected.

The government of Lower Saxony is composed of CDU and SPD. The composition of the state parliament also makes possible an SPD/FDP coalition on the Bonn pattern or a government by CDU and FDP, the latter only with the agreement of the National Democrats (NPD).

In North Rhine-Westphalia the SPD rules together with the FDP. A coalition between the CDU and the FDP is also numerically possible but it would have a majority of only one in the parliament. The next state elections there will take place in 1970. According to current figures the CDU vote will go down. The *coalition between Prime Minister Heinz* Kühn and FDP leader Willi Weyer has a lot of driving power and is a bastion for a Federal government consisting of Willy Brandt and Walter Scheel.

The SPD has an absolute majority in Hesse. State elections take place there next year. If the SPD were to form a coalition with anybody it would be with the FDP.

In Rhineland Palatinate there is a small coalition between CDU and FDP. A left-wing orientated coalition between SPD and FDP is not numerically possible. State elections are still some way off.

Baden-Württemberg is governed by a grand coalition between CDU and SPD. Numerically a small coalition between the CDU and FDP would have a respectable majority. The composition of the state parliament would not allow an SPD/FDP coalition.

In Bavaria the Christian Socialist Union (CSU) is the sole governing party. The political landscape should not change much with the current electoral system. If the CSU bowed down to FDP wishes and abolished the ten per cent clause demanded for representation in the state parliament this would help the NPD at the same time. Then it is probable that both the FDP and the NPD would enter the Bavarian state parliament resulting in a loss of the CSU's absolute majority. This cooperation would be questionable.

The Saar is ruled by a coalition between the CDU and FDP. An SPD/FDP coalition is also numerically possible.

We see from this that five of the Federal states in the Bundestag are under CDU leadershop and have votes. The other five (Berlin is not counted) are led by the SPD and have twenty votes.

As the CDU must form a coalition with the SPD or FDP in all states other than bavaria the party cannot vote without more ado against a Federal government consisting of SPD and FDP. The FDP could be enticed into a coalition in Baden-Württemberg. But the FDP could be attracted by the SPD in Lower Saxony and the Saar. The CDU would then be forced into opposition in two Federal states.

These problems show that threats or enticement via the Bundesrat can have little influence on the formation of the Bonn government. It must be pointed out that voting in the Bundesrat often usually depends on the interests of the Federal state and not on the policy of the corresponding party in the Bundestag.

Hans Heig

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4 October)

NPD protest election results

It was just one of those crazy twists of fate that the so-called National Democrats decided to contest the election results on the very weekend that it was announced that their Federal delegate for security, a man close to leader Adolf von Thadden, had been arrested on suspicion of having fired two shots at demonstrators in Kassel.

this coincidence shows what people should morally think of the NPD attempt to change the election result through a backdoor method. Any party with its own troops who recklessly and uninhibitedly beat people up or even shoot at them – the events at Frankfurt and Kassel need only be mentioned – like the SA once did makes an ass of itself when complainig that it was prevented from carrying out its election campaign.

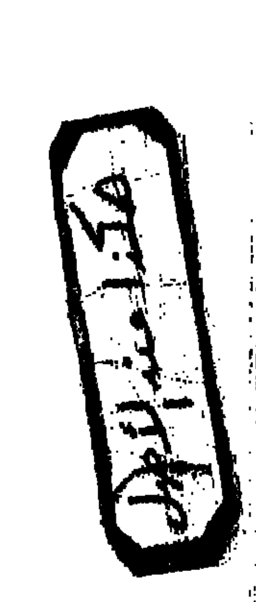
In a constitutional state though the NPD's objection must be considered. The election examining committee of the Bundestag will first of all pass judgement on the case and then the full assembly is allowed to decide. If the Bundestag rejects the NPD's claim the complaint is passed on to the Constitutional Court.

The Constitutional Court does more than decide whether the the NPD was hindered at any point of its campaign. It must also examine if the election results were seriously affected. Or, to put it into the words of the Constitutional Court, "The complaint is justified only when electoral errors are, or can be, of influence on the apportionment of seats."

It is safe to assume that this legal snag will sink the NPD always considering that the complaints gets that far. The NPD itself announced that it met least hindrance in North Rhine-Westphalia. But on 28 September it did not cut a very good figure there. In Hesse on the other hand, where they claim hindrance was at its greatest, the party received a relatively high share of the votes.

This shows that uproar and commotion helped the cause of the NPD. It did not hinder it. This result is as legally important as it is politically. It should not be forgotten in future elections.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 6 October 1969)



Electoral reform

All politicians should have learnt a lesson from the Federal elections. When they speak in future about suffrage and electoral reform they should state honestly that they prefer one system or another because it favours their own party. They should guard against pleading the state of democracy or the direct influence of voters as they can easily come to seem insincery.

Point 27 in the CDU's Berlin programme of November 1968 states "We want a majority suffrage that strengthens the influence of the voter on the formation of the government and ensures political stability."

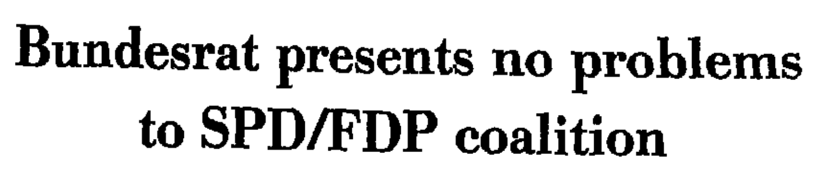
Now, less than a year later, Kurt Georg Kiesinger swept the whole issue under the carpet even though he had levelled grave accusations against the SPD during the election campaign because *it had held* up electoral reform.

The CDU plans long-term cooperation with the FDP and *states* that it will not touch electoral *reform* throughout the period. It's as simple as that.

It's no better with the SPD. During the night after polling a wrongly programmed computer made it look as if a continuation of the Grand Coalition was inescapable. In front of the television cameras Herbert Wehner, Helmut Schmidt and Georg Leber praised the merits of majority suffrage.

A short while later they were sitting at the same table with the FDP, discussing the possibilities of a coalition. The words spoken two days previously had already been forgotten.

(Handelsblatt, 3 October 1969)



Bundesrat presents no problems to SPD/FDP coalition

SPD and FDP experts are now planning measures to safeguard their narrow majority in the Bundestag and protect them against defeat.

The original plans that the ministers put forward by the FDP should give up their right to vote in the Bundestag so that they need not rush back and forth from ministry to Bundestag have now been given up.

Instead a calendar strategy will be developed. As far as possible, the third readings of bills will be bunched on certain days and there will be a duty to attend. Sessions of the Bundestag will not clash with sessions of European or Atlantic parliamentary organisations. The travel of ministers will be limited.

The CDU/CSU opposition in the Bundesrat does not present as many worries to the SPD/ FDP coalition, even though the Federal states under the leadership of the CDU have 21 votes in the upper house and the SPD only 20. Berlin's four votes are not counted.

But Willy Brandt counts on the Federal states voting according to objective points of view in the Bundesrat once the political decisions have been taken in the Bundestag. The Bundesrat cannot simply reject a law. They must refer it to the mediation committee together with exact proposals for its improvement. A mere policy of blocking laws from the Bundestag would lead the CDU/CSU into a difficult situation.

Brandt wants to lead his government as a chancellor for reform and has already considered his strategy as far as the election campaign of 1973. In the second half of the legislative period the two coalition partners want to introduce new plans for a general reform of Basic Law in which the relationship between the Federal government and the Federal states will be changed and re-modelled according to the demands of the situation today.

The coalition has not of course a sufficient majority for such a constitutional change. It merely wants to put the plan up to discussion and make it an issue of the 1973 election campaign.

The issue of whether Berlin should vote or not in the Bundestag and Bundesrat will play no part in the forthcoming election for a Federal Chancellor. But the coalition partners plan that the situation will be settled in about a year's time. Berlin members will then be able to vote for or against any law that does not contain a negative Berlin clause so that its application in Berlin is excluded from the very beginning. Laws relating to the armed forces are one example of this.

(Handelsblatt, 7 October 1969)

■ CENTREPIECE

Twenty years of the German Democratic Republic

The German Democratic Republic (GDR) is commemorating the twentieth anniversary of its foundation as a celebration of the joy of living and a manifestation of strength, dignity and beauty.

Military parades, rallies, state ceremonies, processions, street dances, torchlight processions and firework displays have all been arranged. The whole population is to join in the celebrations.

But twenty years ago when the state was founded the population was not present. In fact the foundation of the state was against the wishes of the population.

On 7 October 1949 at twelve noon the 400 officials of the legally elected People's Council met in the large meeting hall in the former Ministry of Aviation in Leipziger Strasse.

The chairman of the Socialist Unity Party (SED) Wilhelm Pieck announced the formation of the GDR. The People's Council declared itself to be parliament naming itself the People's Chamber.

When a constitution which had been worked out by the People's Council was passed many delegates of the middle-class parties made for the exit. Did they want to make sure that people would see that they did not bear responsibility for this action? Then SED chairman Otto Grotewohl was entrusted with the formation of the government. Elections were to take place on 15 October 1950.

Four days later, on 11 October, the people's Chamber convened once again. Pieck was elected President of the GDR by a unanimous show of hands. He then inspected a batallion of the People's police in front of the former Ministry for Aviation and went to August Bebel Platz where industrial deputations marched by. That evening there was a torchlight procession. The next morning the People's Chamber approved Prime Minister Otto Grotewohl's proposed cabinet.

The background to the formation of this state stretches back to the spring of 1945. Then, only a few days after the capitulation of Germany, a Russian aeroplane brought the former Reichstag member Walter Ulbricht to Kustrin together with nine other Communists who were returning from twelve years of exile.

The Ulbricht group began to form a civilian administration in the shadow of the Red Army. The main policy was to take over all the political forces in the country and occupy key positions with communists.

The Russians and the Communists soon noticed that the Communist Party found far less response among the population than the SPD did. They then forced the two parties to fuse into the Socialist Unity Party (SED).

At local and state elections it was seen that support for the two middle-class parties, CDU and LDP, was larger than expected. Therefore in 1947 the Communists staged the Eople's Congress Movement in which the SED and mass organisations it influenced led the way. From this resulted the People's Council. It was originally meant to be the first stage towards an all-German parliament.

But when the formation of the Federal Republic from the three Western zones began to take on clearer outlines and the attempt to include West Berlin in the Soviet zone by means of the blockade failed Moscow's prime aim was to consolidate what it had. On 7 October 1949 the Soviet zone became by proclamation the German Democratic Republic.

The first year of the SED state was marked by the struggle of the SED for a unified election list for the elections of October 1950. The resistance of the CDU and the LDP was broken by a campaign of terror. At this time were formed the state security service, the Supreme Court and the General State Proscecutor's Office. Critical statements about the GDR or its government were punished as being a crime against the democratic order. There were many arrests and the number of CDU and LDP members decreased. The party leadership which included third-rate functionaries finally agreed to the unified list. On 15 October 1949 voters suddenly found that they no longer had an election. The 99 per cent era began.

In the years that followed the SED regime pushed ahead the socialisation process with Stalinist methods. In July 1952 Ulbricht proclaimed the establishment of Socialism. The winter of 1952 and 1953 saw terrible supply crises. On 28 May 1953 the Ministerial council decided to increase the work quotas by ten per cent from 30 June. On 17 June 1953 the population revolted and tried to shake off the dictatorship. But Russian tanks saved the SED regime.

The SED learnt its lesson from the events of this year. Since then administrative increases of quotas have been avoided. The production of consumer goods was stimulated. The Soviet Union gave credits and delivered food consignments. Slowly the material position began timprove. Hunger was banished.

But the quality of goods produced did not, and still does not, measure up to products from this country. The reconstruction of industry gained precedence over the production of consumer goods. And political pressure eased. Criticism was allowed, not on basic points of principle but only on peripheral matters.

If the Polish and Hungarian revolutions forced Moscow to the defensive in 1956, two years later she was once again on the offensive. For years the policy of the GDR was characterised by Krushchev's *Berlin* ultimatums. But the policy did not meet with success. The Western powers remained firmly entrenched in the former imperial capital. The only thing that Eastern threats lead to was a dramatic increase in the number of refugees to West Berlin. The GDR began to bleed to death. On 13 August 1961 the Berlin Wall was built with Moscow's permission. Emigration was stopped by force.

After the storm about the building of the Wall was over the GDR entered a phase of consolidation. The new economic system boosted economic growth. In spite of the poor starting position – the GDR received no Marshall Aid, she had to pay vast sums of reparations to the Soviet Union and had little mineral wealth of her own – the last few years have seen the GDR grow to become the nineth most powerful industrial nation in the world. Her standard of living is by far the highest of all the Eastern Bloc countries.

This economic rise has strengthened the position of the GDR within the Eastern Bloc. She still has close ties with the Soviet Union but no longer plays the part of a powerless satellite. Her position today is that of junior partner with a certain say in a matter.

She is still disliked by other Eastern European states but she is respected. that is the reason why most of the countries of the Eastern bloc – Rumania is an exception – have agreed to take up diplomatic relations with the Federal Republic only if Bonn recognises the existence of East Berlin in international law.

After the Federal Republic agreed to high level talks in 1967 and therefore recognised the GDR de facto East Berlin demanded full recognition and increasingly stressed its existence as a state. In 1967 the Citizenship Law was passed and this was followed by the constitution in 1968. Visas are now necessary and a new customs law has been passed.

As far as West Berlin is concerned the construction of the Wall has meant that the GDR has managed to keep the city's influence in check. The GDR's aim at present is to divorce West Berlin from the Federal Republic and make it a special political unit in practice as well as in theory.

When this policy did not succeed after the introduction of transit visas the GDR campaigned against the Bundestag session in Berlin by blocking the motorways to the city for sometime. This was not without its success. There has been no Bundestag session in Berlin since. East Berlin had to forego further and greater action against the Federal Assembly of March 1969 which took place in Berlin because Moscow, at present uninterested in tension in Central Europe, refused her permission.

To compensate for this curb the Soviet Union campaigned among several uncommitted nations in the summer of 1969 for the recognition of the GDR. Years of effort by the GDR suddenly bore fruit. Iraq, Cambodia, Sudan, Syria, South Yemen and the United Arab Republic all took up diplomatic relations with the GDR. Now the GDR is directing its main attention on India so that her trade mission in East Berlin can be raised to the rank of a full embassy.

This development has not only boosted the self- confidence of the GDR but has also made Ulbricht the unchallenged head of state. He eliminated all his rivals in the fifties though he was not so stupid as to liquidate them. Today he can afford to tolerate former opponents like Schirdewan, Harich and Dahlem in lower positions. Present day opponents of his policy like Professor Havemann or satirical singer Wolf Biermann are ignored and isolated.

Ulbricht is now 76 years old and has carefully selected his successor. In all probability a well adjusted triumvirate will take over power. It will consist of party chairman Erich Honecker, a man more dogmatic than Ulbricht, Willi Stoph, chairman of the State Council, who favours a middle course, and governmental head Mittag who is more pragmatic than Ulbricht.

The SED has good reason to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of the GDR. It can look forward with optimism to the third decade. The stigma of its birth which has caused the country so many problems is now being forgotten not only in the GDR but also elsewhere.

Liselott Müller

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 7 October 1969)

The GDR – a state or not a state?

The GDR is celebrating its twentieth anniversary. The table is richly adorned with gifts. After the wave of recognition that swept through the Arab world countries in the Far East are beginning to take up diplomatic contacts. India has opened a trade delegation in East Berlin which could have repercussions in Ceylon, Burma and other Asian states. Algeria is also toying with the idea of opening diplomatic relations with the GDR. But there is an obstacle. Algeria wishes to be an associate member of the Common Market.

The GDR is beginning to take diplomatic shape. Originally described as a phenomenon or artificial creation, and sometimes placed in inverted commas, the GDR has now become a state. The existence of the GDR cannot be denied. To recognise this does not yet mean that the state is being recognised.

There is still doubt today as to the legitimacy of the GDR. There are states, even democratic states, recognised by the Federal Republic where the population is given less self-determination than in the GDR. But in the case of the GDR, recognition would mean the end of reunification hopes.

There are today some experts on constitutional law who are willing to term the GDR as a sovereign state. Their claims are based on the three elements theory that says that a state is composed of territory, power and a people.

The GDR has admittedly territory and power – surrounded by walls and barbed wire – but has it a people ? When a population is subjected to official power a nation does nor arise. For a community to become a state people must be convinced of the legitimacy of state power. And that should be doubted in the case of the GDR. Only free elections would show if people there support the power of their state. But the communists fear nothing more than free elections.

The Socialist Unity Party (SED) does not speak of a nation but of the people of the GDR. When in the summer of 1968 the SED put forward a socialist constitution to a plebiscite even Walter Ulbricht himself did not dispute the continuance of a single German nation. Article One of the GDR constitution states, "The German Democratic Republic is a socialist state of the German nation." With this the SED leadership emphasises that changes have taken place in Germany that are, according to Ulbricht, of historical importance for the whole of Europe and that nobody can ignore in the long run.

The party leadership has adopted Lenin's view – in theory at least – that only a nation can have a right of self-determination and not Bukharin's addition that the proletariat can as well.

Bukharin's thesis in which a people in the social sense of the word have a right to self determination is always quoted by constitutional lawyers in the GDR to prove the establishment of a nation in the GDR. But even the most eager champions of the existence of two separate states hesitate to adopt this theory. Loyalty to ideology and the uncertainty whether the people would actually support state power or not have so far stopped the SED form legally dividing the nation.

But the SED already talks of the people of the GDR and bases this formula on the citizenship law of 1967. But is citizenship part of the principles of international law? Is citizenship a valid reason for proclaiming a nation? The SED is equating state with government.

The situation is different in the Federal Republic. there the people have often recognised the legitimacy of their state. In the many elections they have given their votes to the parties of state and expressed their conviction of the country's democratic legality. To this extent the people of the Federal Republic are a nation.

It should not be denied that the consciousness of the GDR has developed. It has turned gradually from a hopeful attitude towards the Federal Republic and its social form. People in the GDR feel themselves more and more to be self-dependent. The SED calls this the socialist community. After years of terror the bonds have loosened. As escape is possible only with the risk of loss of life people have come to terms with the Communists. People are cooperating. They hope that freedom will keep pace with the strength of the state. And who wants to give up this hope?

Willi Kinnigkeit

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 7 October 1969)

■ THINGS HEARD

Blacher's new opera given in Berlin

After the electronic experiments in his *Incidents at a Crash-landing*, first performed at Hamburg in 1966, Boris Blacher has returned to normal distribution of roles in his new opera – in as much as the word "return" is relevant in connection with a composer of this type, so spiritually vital and eager for inner innovation.

There is a lot of evidence for the fact that Blacher has included in his *200,000 Thalers* some of his experiences with modern technical media. This time his prime aim was to write a score that was as simple as possible, simple in the way that Sholem Aleichem's story seems to be simple, though it is in fact highly complicated and has many human, social and political themes running through it.

Anyone these days who sets a work of Aleichem's to music runs the risk of having his completed product compared with the musical *Fiddler on the Roof* which has spread the name of the Jewish playwright all over the world.

Nothing was further from Blacher's intention. Long before the successful Broadway production Blacher had seen the comedy *200,000 Thalers* performed in Berlin under the direction of Piscator. He was immediately attracted by the play's charm. In it he recognised that, to use his own words, forces appear in the smallest cell of a human community, in this case a Jewish family in the Ukraine, that have essentially changed our century. In the play we see changes in the social structure as well as racial hatred and the incompatibility of fortune and materialism.



A scene from Boris Blacher's new opera '200,000 Thalers'

(Photo: Ilse Buhs)

Quite apart from the competition which does not occure Schimele, a tailor, cannot be compared with milkman Tevje, an expert on the Koran. He is a silly man, a poor man, a man who is lost in dreams and cannot pay his rent. His most valuable possession is Bailke, his pretty daughter adored by the two bachelors Motel and Kopel. The matchmaker suggests that he shcould barter Bailke off to Solomon, the old house owner, or to Koltum, the lustful superintendent. He has faith in a dream that promises him great fortune in a lottery.

To cut a long story short, the dream comes true just as in a fairy tale. Schimele learns from a bank employee that he has the winning number. Now he is free of all care and can move into a richly decorated house together with his wife and daughter.

But he continues to dream. While the rich and profiteers brood upon his newly gained wealth Schimele wants to put his money to good use. He plans to buy houses where poop people can live without racking their brains as to where the next rent is coming from.

The idealistic utopia fails even before the news arrives that the bank has made a mistake in the number that won the lottery. Schimele is forced back into his previous poverty. But he suffers his fate without losing composure. He has the same puzzling Jewish strength of resistance that has asserted itself over and over again in the face of threats and persecution.

Bailke had already left the ornate house and the atmosphere there that she did not like. She goes to marry Motel. Schimele then blesses the couple.

That is a short summary of the action of the opera which Boris Blacher has written with dramatic skill from the original tale by Aleichem. Blacher terms it an apperetta but a better description would be dialogue opera. Recitative dominates over the few arias and the economic musical accompaniment has the function of emphasis and illustration.

But Blacher makes a lot of use of the ability to express what cannot be expressed in words in eloquent music that he first tries in his abstract opera. In spite of the artificial economy of its musical language which is limited mainly to a few chords and short motives consisting of chromatic lines that are repeated over and over again, running throughout the whole work, Blacher manages to find a subtle gradation of sound and rhythmic variation for every character. This gives each scene an incredible richness of dramatic characterisation.

Under the precise and musically sound direction of Heinrich Hollreiser the Deutshe Oper of Berlin have spared themselves no pains in the production of the work it commissioned. The premiere was rounded off by the excellent distribution of parts. The main roles were allotted to Martha Mödl, Dorothea Weiss, Cindia Reich and Ernst Häfliger. Gustav Rudolf Sellner did a complete job in production. Ita Maximowna's decor and costumes were very close to the style of Chagall and discreetly contributed to the success of the opera even though the composer received some boos at the end.

Heinz Joachim

(DIE WELT, 27 September 1969)

A black Hamlet, a golden Hamlet

From the very beginning two Hamlets stood opposite each other – Shakespeare's Hamelt in black and producer Charles Marowitz' Hamlet, glistening in his gold armour.

The golden Hamlet rotates and his suit of armour throws out a dazzling yellow light. The effect is just like that of danger lights that warn of road works along the motorway in this country. This is Hamlet as he would like to be. As soon as black Hamlet broods over the act of revenge that he must carry out, the bright Hamlet appears, presses the sword into his hand and the uncle is bloodily cut down.

This is one of the hallucinations that the producer stages every now and again to explain the lines of the author. This production can be described as Hamlet for beginners.

Marowitz points to Artaud and Grotowsky as precedents. Five years ago he wrote a *Hamlet* that lasted a quarter of an hour for Peter Brook's *Theatre of Cruelty*. Four years ago he came out with a fifty minute version for Walter Höllerer's productions in Berlin. Now he has written a *Hamlet* lasting three and a half hours for the Wiesbaden Staatstheater, where his *Macbeth* had its premiere during this year's May Festival.

His longest version of *Hamlet* is also amusing. The ghost of Hamlet's father hangs bare chested at a stake and the grave-digger speaks like a ventriloquist and the skull's lower jaw moves as the sentences are spoken. John Napier is in charge of decor and he has clothed the ladies at court in the same predominantly green evening dresses so that they all look like Daphnes about to be transformed into trees. Polonius is dressed in a grey suit, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern in straw hats and college jackets. Green and grey predominate elsewhere. It looks as if Elsinore is a magnificent hunting lodge. In Soho, in the cellar on the Tottenham Court Road where Marowitz has his Open Space Theatre, this showmanship is in the immediate vicinity of comic strips and striptease clubs.

When Hamlet grieves,

"O, most wicked speed, to post

With such dexterity to incestuous sheets!"

Marowitz quickly focuses on what the incestuous uncle and Hamlet's mother are doing immediately they post to the sheets.

When Ophelia first apperas wearing a see-through nightdress, she grasps Hamlet by the genitals. He is sickened by her, this Ophallia, and leaves her be. She screams that he has attacked her. When Hamlet accuses himself of not having the necessary energy at the end of the Players' scene the first player is in the background and cleanly cuts off the head of Claudius, the bloody procurer.

Marowitz is obviously amused by "To be or not to be, that is the question." He turns the speech into an exercise and Hamlet is taught by the first player how to declaim the speech and accompany it with the appropriate theatrical gestures. During his speech of self-accusation (how all occasions do inform against me, and spur may dull revenge!) just before the interval the whole court assembles around Hamlet threateningly and mocks his inability to decide on a course of action.

In the programme Marowitz talks of his interpretation and asks how omelettes are to be made without breaking eggs. He accuses Hamlet of knowing ho to make omelltes but being unable to cut his uncle to pieces. Brecht in his time suggested that the figure of Hamlet should be devalued and André Müller works on this in his *Versions of Shakespeare* that has just appeared in East Berlin, published by the Aufbau Verlag.

Marowitz is no dependent on these views but he does bring them onto stage. When his Hamlet, played by the talented Jüurgen Kloth, comes to the conclusion that readiness is all it is an expression of a fatalism that has delegated his role of avenger to providence. Providence rules over the case of the lapwing and it may also take care of the death of Claudius. But readiness is all that Hamlet contributes.

Georg Hensel

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 September 1969)

Peter Hack's 'Amphitryon'

When Shakespeare adapts material his approach is fresh and bold. He uses what pleases him, modifies certain features and lets his imagination run riot and the result is a typical Shakespeare play.

It would be presumptuous, and incorrect, to expect the same measure of innocence and naivety from Peter Hacks, a man who carries the burden of being an author and playwright of our knowledgeable century and also drags a PhD in German around with him. Especially when his material is the story of Amphitryon, a subject that has been exhausted by interpreters and dramatists of all time.

With his version of *Amphitryon* Peter Hacks starts from the assumption that nearly everything already written or thought on the subject of the eternal triangle between Jupiter, Alcmene and Amphitryon is already well known.

In his treatment of the subject Hacks does not shy away from adapting secondary literature into lines of poetry. He comes up with enchantingly clever and scintillating formulations that would grace any essay dealing with the subject of Amphitryon. But he runs out of steam in the third act where the figures seen in a two-way mirror of consciousness once again explain their positions.

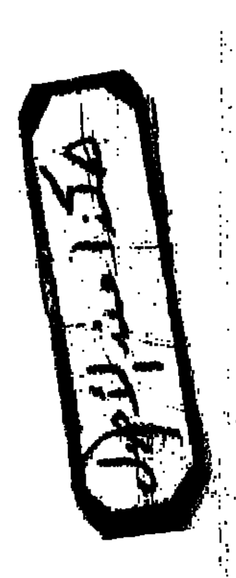
This is therefore a comedy for those in the know. People are to recognise the situation once again and rethink their position. Problems of faithfulness, guilt and innocence disappear or have at least no terrible consequences, as is normal with enlightened people. Action is then reduced to an erotic intermezzo. With a twinkle in his eye Hacks interprets divine powers as superhuman. Jupiter is untouched by the trivial everyday worries of a compaigner and is depicted as a passionate lover with no signs of the wear and tear of married life. He is a boulevard god.

Meanwhile Alcmene, initiated, emancipated and a little resigned after the unique experience of a night spent with one of the gods, is given more personality by Hacks. She is no longer portrayed as a blissfully suffering victim.

Hacks succeeds in creating a completely new Sosicas. Amphitryon's servant is now a layabout, a philosopher, doubter and instructor. He has the woundrous task of being a modern sceptic in the face of all tradition and not getting excited about his loss of identity.

Günther Fleckenstein, the director of the theatre in Göttingen, has staged the comedy in Munich's Cuvilliestheater. True to style could be its slogan. Two classical pillars, reminiscent of Oldenbourg's soft objects, hang loosely from the gridiron.

(Handelsblatt, 1 October 1969)



■ FILMS

The fairy-tale world of Lotte Reininger

Not one of the recognised books on the history of the cinema mentions her. Not one cinema historian considers it worthwhile to discuss her at length.

Now the "Deutsche Kinemathek" has recognised Lotte Reiniger, who was born in Berlin and works at present in London. A small exhibition has been opened dedicated to this charming loner among this country's film-makers.

The exhibition demonstrates her art and the way she cuts silhouettes. In addition on several evenings the "Kinemathek" will present a cross section of her screen work in their own projection room. These films will show the sheer charm of her work which is virtually unparalleled.

Scurrilous figures dance to and fro, little men hop about and all kinds of animals romp around on the screen. All these fantastic images are part of the wonderful imaginary world of Lotte Reiniger.

Her style and themes both come under the influence of the Middle and Far East. But in all her works, the atmosphere of those years in which Lotte Reiniger produced her first films can easily be recognised.

The after-effects of her youthful style are mixed with the impetus which Expressionism gave her. The strongest influencecomes from Max Reinhardt's fairy-tale stage style.

In fact Lotte Reiniger, born in 1899 was able to gather her first impressions from Reinhardt. She visited the German Theatre's drama school in 1916-17.

She soon discovered that the stage was not for her. She began to make her first silhouettes, likenesses of her friends and colleagues. Among these was a portrait of Paul Wegener.



A scene from Lotte Reiniger's silhouette film 'The Story of Prince Achmed'

(Photo: Kine Press)

It was Wegener who made it possible for Lotte Reiniger to break into films. Her first silhouette film, *Rübezahl's Wedding*, made in 1916, was directed by him.

Rochus Gliese directed her *The Ornament of the Enamoured Heart* (1919). The subject of these early films, mainly shorts, was predominantly fairy tales.

She only ever made one full length film, *The Story of Prince Achmed*, which took her three full years between 1923 and 1926.

She designed settings for Hilpert of Berlin and created for Fritz Lang's *Nibelungen'* a ferocious looking bird-like animal, which Lang found unacceptable.

The subjects of her work often came from Hauff, the Brothers Grimm and Oriental fairy-tales. This may make her look like an escapist trying to dodge reality. Lotte Reiniger was so in love with her creations, the characters and the stories, that they flowed from her fertile mind, leaving it untroubled by the world around her.

After the Second World War she settled in London, which she found a new and successful workplace, and where she managed to invent and develop new techniques for her art.

This exhibition gives a good idea of her method of creation: first of all she tackles the background which she places on a glass-topped table illuminated from below. On top of this she places the figures, each of which is individual and can move independently.

This scene is photographed by a camera, one frame at a time. The camera is firmly fixed directly above the glass table. The animated figures are then moved fractionally, the limbs, the head, the feet and so on.

The result is like some devilish waxworks, where the all-too lifelike figures have the power to move.

The effect is attractive and delicate, but just a little anachronistic.

A meeting with Lotte Reiniger, who still has no successor or challenger for her position, fills a gap in a person's knowledge of the cinema and its history. Yet few cinema-lovers even know this gap existed.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 25 September 1969)

'Eine Ehe' shows marriage as it is among ordinary people

Father, daughter and son-in-law are sitting contentedly eating, chatting and smoking in a Munich restaurant.

They are an everyday family. Then the man hands his son a document over the table. It is decree. The film *Eine Ehe* (A Marriage) begins with the divorce.

Hans Rolf Strobel and Heinrich Tichawsky show the six year duration of this marriage impressively in the next two hours.

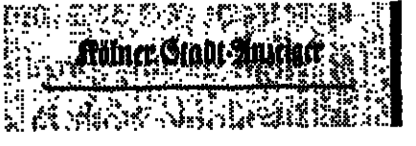
Small clipped scenes are shown in non-chronological order in eight main sections, portraying the couple's married life without any intelligible sense of connexion.

They carefully avoid showing a complete and well-rounded story. The audience has to build up the story from the many fragments, like a jigsaw puzzler.

In the plot, Heidi flees the illiberality of her home and school and rushes into marriage with Peter. He is a civil servant in the town planning department. His profession is time consuming and causes him to neglect Heidi.

She grows bored and tries to fuss around him at night when he wants to be left alone in peace. As a town planner he develops Utopias, but in marriage he is patriarchal and very-old-fashioned.

Heide is unfulfilled. Peter cannot comprehend. After three years of mar-



riage they have a home of their own and a child. Still nothing changes. Another part of their routine is the visits from their parents and the annual holiday in Italy.

At last Heidi takes a friend into her confidence and explains to her how the marriage was just a flight from one trap into another.

Her middle-class upbringing has taught her that as a houwife she must provide for her husband, home and child. This leaves her no latitude for finding her own feet and developing her own personality.

She petitions for divorce, and her husband too realises that a woman cannot be considered as goods and chattels for any length of time. He tries to be tolerant and win her over to him, but she persists with the decree.

At the moment there is no other film which treats the subject of the dilemma of marriage with such understanding and depth as Strobel and Tichawsky's first full feature film, *Eine Ehe*.

The two script writers and producers do not indulge in the sensationalism with which this subject is usually treated. There are no car crashes, miscarriages or suicide attempts.

It is the everyday trivialities, the banality, of it all which makes Heidi and Peter's marriage break up.

The co-producers have collected their material and formed it into "typical" scenes. The ancestry of social criticism and documentary films is noticeable in *Eine Ehe* (Strobel and Tichawsky's first film is running as a 'B' feature.) The pedagogic, high-school-didactic nature of the film is obvious.

Strobel says: "Our society treats the woman like a minority group, and oppresses her." He and Tichawsky are fighting for the woman's freedom. They have come across the problem of how a woman must try to emancipate herself "in a society which is run by non-emancipated men."

The two film makers offer no solution, but merely serve up the problem as they see it, as food for thought to the audience.

They do not consider films as aesthetic, but simply as a means of social enlightenment. The criticism that their film is without aesthetic appeal would not strike them as a reproach.

Consequently they do not call *Eine Ehe* a film at all, but a "cinematic drama".

Hans Peter Kochenrath

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 27 September 1969)

Film festival at Lübeck

At the eleventh Northern European film festival in Lübeck, Sweden and Denmark again proved their worth.

This can be largely attributed to the fact that laws governing films and filmmakers in these countries favour the progressive and adventurous.

Scandinavian film producers see the Lübeck film sho as a small sales fair, and with good reason. The Federal Republic market is tempting and films are shown that have still to bo sold in this country. This means that the films presented at Lübeck are far from representative of the total output of the Scandinavian film industry.

Peter Watkins, an Englishman and Susan Sontag from America showed the potential of Swedish studios. They were each given a chante to produce a film of their own choosing in Stockholm.

Watking's *The Gladiators* is a grim vision of things to come. In the script eastern and western powers have joined forces to prevent another world war, on the one hand, and to satisfy, on the other hand, the human need to show aggression. They achieve the latter by organising so-called "peace games".

Watkins' aim was to satirise the cynical attitude of major powers, which are concerned with promoting enmity between various factions in order to safeguard their political machine.

As a logical outcome of this, two opposing "gladiators", who want to come to terms, are excluded from the peace game by the military control commission.

Watkins worked with ordinary members of the public, with the result that his film has a rather naive conception and execution. It lacks intellectual precision and its good intentions are somewhat spoiled by occasional platitudes.

Duet for Cannibals, the first film to be produced by Susan Sontag who is betterknown as an essayist, is strange to say the least. She has built up an electric field between two couples, whom she introduced to each other. In this duet there is little harmony, but a great deal of discord.

The film is like a mystic nightmare, a mixture of personalised nasty experiences and frustrations, aberrations and hallucinations. Susan Sontag has undoubtedly given students of psychology good and plentiful material to work on.

Also on show was a remarkable and exemplary type of documentary film, *The White Sport*, produced by a group of young film makers in conjunction with Bo Widerberg.

The group's intention was to portray the mechanics and dynamics of a protest movement. Their intention has succeeded exactly, vividly and informatively.

The general plot concerns a successful demonstration to prevent an international tennis tournament between Sweden and Rhodesia taking place. This is meant as a boycott of Rhodesia's race policy.

From Denmark, among others, came the great test of Ole Roos' talent. This young documentary film maker produced *Kisses to the Right – Kisses to the Left*.

The film is far from gay as the title might suggest. It is much more the documentation of grim doubt and uncertainty.

Its finest scenes are reminiscent of Louis Malle's *Will-o'-the-wisp*. The hero of this film by Ole Roos kills himself at the end.

Whereas the Swedes are more concerned with a direct political message or a work of social criticism, young Danish film makers tend to treat more personal melancholy.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 1 October 1969)



■ PROFILE

Heidegger - this century's most important thinker

More public attention has been focused on Martin Heidegger than on any other philosopher since Hegel.

But he never specially aimed for this. He twice turned down an invitation to go to Berlin and he has hardly ever attended a philosophers' congress. It was obviously his philisophy that lead to such public acclaim.

At present discussion about Heidegger has surprisingly died down. Perhaps this too has something to do with his philosophy. But what is his philosophy exactly?

His philosophy has fascinated a whole generation. His scholars include Karl Löwith, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Herbert Marcuse and Karl Rahner. They know all about Heidegger as a teacher. They can talk of the intensity of his questioning, his unrelenting demand for objective thought and perspectives on the history of philosophy.

This was already well pronounced in his impressive *Sein und Zeit* (Essence and Time) which appeared in 1927. It is little wonder that this work made Heidegger famous overnight. From the very beginning Heidegger himself termed his influence a misunderstanding. He wanted to resume the colossal battle about being. But to get people talking about the question of being he first had to talk of Man's comprehension of being and speak ontologically of existence.

He therefore concentrated on penetrative analyses of Man, his daily existence, addicted to the world and engrossed in public gossip as it was, the possibility of finding oneself in the fear and knowledge of death and oblivion, Man's dependence on his own resources and his need of liberty.

This was what made the philosophical world sit up and take notice. In his book people could see the the essence of the period between the two world wars which had lost all meaning for them. The description was admittedly not only positive. The trait of heroic nihilism that ran through *Sein und Zeit* and the defiance of a preparedness for death lead to a misunderstanding that even Heidegger fell victim to. He expressed the emotions of the generation that usurped power in 1933. Heidegger quickly saw his error. But this period of his life meant that he was not allowed to continue his activities as a teacher in the normal sense of the word after 1945.

The post-war years saw a quick succession of works from his pen. They are partly concerned with the history of philosophy. He talks of Anaximander, Plato, Descartes, Kant and Hegel. But most of his work dealt with Nietzsche and he opened up new, surprising insights into the thought of this philosopher.

Other writings by him interpret poets and their work. Special attention is paid to Hölderlin but he also deals with Rilke and George, Trakl and Benn. He expressed the problems involved in founding a new system of thought in his *Brief über den Humanismus* (Letter on Humanism) and in his profound essay *Identity and Difference*. Heidegger also stated his position on some issues of particular topicality today. He spoke of language, art and, most of all, the essence of technology.

Heidegger's real intentions were expressed more clearly in these works than ever before. Man is mentioned only *en passant*, he has become a peripheral figure. Heidegger deprives him of his central position attained in modern subjectivism and existentialism. Heidegger replaces it with the legend of essence. He speaks of it in almost mythological language, "For what is being? It is It itself. Future thought must learn how to experience and express it."

If any attempt is made to define being in Heidegger's sense it must be kept in mind that the philosopher expressly declined to recognise God or any other reason for existence. Essence is rather the full range of happenings in which Man or being, dependent on the varying epochs of the history of being, is revealed. Essence functions of its own accord in its revelatory capacity and serves historical Man.

In the present day it is primarily the negative side that appear, the convulsion of all being and the homelessness of Man. This fate of being results from extreme oblivion of being but it can be surmounted if being once again turns to Man who is straying the paths of error. That is Heidegger's hope for the future. He wants Man to listen for the call of the being and become its guardian.

This profound speculation — many of the points remind the listener or reader of Schelling or Hegel — roused the interest of his contemporaries, especially in the period shortly after the Second World War. It was not only professional philosophers who listened. Interest spread to representatives of other branches of learning and poets and artists paid heed. The number of people who adopted Heidegger's teachings, with varying degrees of comprehension, was legion. But there was also much serious adoption of the universal philosophy newly elucidated by Heidegger.

But one fact must be borne in mind: the fact mentioned at the beginning of this article that discussion about Heidegger has surprisingly died down. Nowadays other fields of interest occupy contemporary philosophers. Sociological problems come top of the list, closely followed by logistics and semantics.

But Heidegger's thought itself can explain why people have turned away from him. He regards the alteration of reality as the task of being and not of Man. His basic premises cannot be verified by the traditional means of philosophy and what he says is more prophecy than sober analysis of actual reality.

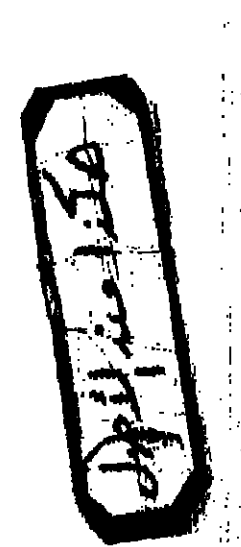
But that does not stop people seeing in Heidegger the most important philosopher that this century has so far produced. After a period of oblivion his work could once again attain renewed effectiveness.

(Photo: dpa)

Wilhelm Weischedel

(CHRIST UND WELT, 26 September 1969)





■ FOOD

Increased meat and egg production by drugs

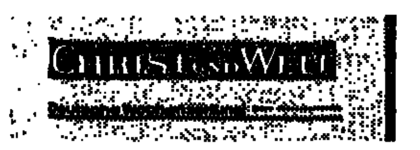
After many years of research scientists in this country have managed to find a new antibiotic. In contrast to other drugs of this type the new antibiotic will be used exclusively on animals, never on Man.

There was once a hen, the old story goes, that laid an egg. The other hens began to screech until the houswife came along, praised the hen, took the egg and carried it into the cellar. This is a charming fairy story that would delight any writer of children's books. But real life is different.

The healthy world of the chicken farms has long been replaced by fully automated cages where thousands of layers are cooped up together in a small space. They are fed by automatic feeders and are unable to scratsh about as they sit on wire netting through which their droppings fall to be carried away on a conveyer belt.

When a hen lays an egg it hardly has time to say goodbye to it. The egg is forced by its own weight into a trough where it is automatically collected, X-rayed, classified, stamped and packed.

There are almost 61 million layers in the Federal Republic. The number of hens is roughly the same as the number of humans. The profit made from them can be calculated down to the nearest thousandth of a pfennig. If all the hens in this



country could be persuaded to lay an extra ten eggs a year it would mean that another 500 million eggs produced every year and a gross profit of 92 million Marks at present egg prices. There are sign that hens will be moved to this decision before the end of this election year. It is not political reasons that motivate the hens but success in the development of a stimulant for their laying apparatus.

Flavomycin is the name of the substance that promises to have such far-reaching effect. A few weeks ago it was introduced to a panel of international journalists. Its effects are not limited to hens. It is an ideal addition to the food of all domestic creatures from beef cattle to carp.

It is added to the animal's daily fodder in homoeopathic tins and prompts in the animal a process that sounds like a sort of agricultural magic. The animals grow faster and reach their ideal weight earlier. The shorter time the animal is in its stall the more food is saved. As the animals are able to make better use of the food they are given the effect is doubled. And it has already been stated that it increases the desire of hens to lay eggs.

Flavomycin is a new antibiotic obtained, like penicillin, the first antibiotic of this type, from fungus. But it has lit le in common with penicillin and has been proudly described by its producers as the first of an entirely new group of antibiotics.

For years there has been heated discussion on whether it is right to feed farm animals with any sort of antibiotic. Groups of doctors and scientists have dealt with this question right up to the summer of this year. In spite of all warnings twenty million Marks are spent on antibiotics for fodder in the Federal Republic every year. The world figure is 200 million Marks. This testifies to the strength of the agricultural lobbies.

Feeding animals with antibiotics normally used in human medicine can indeed lead to serious complaints. All the antibiotic material is not excreted by the animal and can thus enter the digestive tract of human beings. A constant intake of medicaments can breed resistant strains of bacteria. Selection leads to a reshuffle in the bacterial population and different strains become more important than formerly. When things become serious they can no longer be combatted with these medicaments. The misuse of medicaments on the farmyard can jeopardise success in the doctor's surgery but it is not yet known to what extent. On top of this many antibiotics, penicillin for instance, create allergies or shock in individuals. Doctors and general practi tioners are ready for this sort of thing — but not when the drugs are distributed without thought.

In contrast to all antibiotics known up to now flavomycin does not produce allergies in human beings. Years of experiment have shown that it cannot be stored or accumulate in meat, fat, milk or eggs. Flavomycin remains in the animal's intestinal canal and is excreted as it is.

It starts to decompose only when it is on the ground. After about six weeks its effectiveness has decreased to about one seventh. No decompositional products can be found in the body of animals used. Flavomycin therefore meets the demands made by medical committees in the last few years.

But there are other reasons why it takes up a special position among modern pharmaceutical products. Work on flavomycin which looks as if it is going to force all other antibiotics out of agriculture began more than ten years ago. There has been therefore a long process of development. The average time spent in developing pharmaceutical products for medicine in from three to five years. For insecticides, crop sprays and other materials to protect crops and plants development lasts from about sic to eight years.

The reason why medical products can be developed more quickly lies in the fact that toxicological experiments can continue throughout the year while summer is the only time of year that experiments can be made into plant protection and extreme weather conditions must be avoided.

Ten years ago scientists at the Hoechst concern began to examine earth samples from Europe and Africa in the hope of finding new bacteria. They were concerned primarily with the antibiotic qualities of the hormones in the bacterial mycelium.

Finally four bacterial groups were selected and deposited in the meantime with the American type collection. Two of them, *streptomyces bambergiensis* and *edcriensis* are from the area around Bamberg and the Eder dam; One of the samples came from Ghana *(streptomyces ghanaensis)* and one from an Icelandic geyser *(streptomyces geysirensis)*.

The important thing is that flavomycin is effective primarily against streptococci and staphylococci, as well as brucellik pasteurelli and listerii. The Hoechst laboratories have demonstrated that it works by inhibiting the biosynthesis of the cells. This is proved by enriching elements in the cell wall with flavomycin.

The substance itself is composed of 48.5 per cent carbon, 7.3 per cent hydrogen, 37.3 per cent oxygen, 1.8 per cent phosphor and 0.51 per cent nitrogen. It is a non-crystalline, colourless powder of the glycolipide group and has the mol weight 1,700. No other hormones can be found in the mycelium of the bacteria. Flavomycin in pure form can be stored at room temperature for two years without loss of efficiency. Even after twenty four hours of being heated at 100 degrees centigrade it loses only twenty per cent of its efficiency. When mixed with fodder it can be kept for some years and it also lasts seven and half months in solutions of protein concentrate and minerals.

As fas as can be seen there is possibility of danger only at certain points of its application. Firstly when it is being produced and mixed, secondly when being fed to animals and lastly if animal excrement is touched. In these cases it comes into contact with human beings and can affect their skin or respiratory tract.

Apart from a mild bactericide effect there has been up to now no interference between flavomycin and other antibiotics used on humans. The danger of an allergy is not rated at all highly. Flavomycin seems to present no problems.

The substance has already received all licences imaginable to allow it to be fed to farm animals. Largescale experiments with hens have shown that a diet containing flavomycin changes neither the colour nor flavour of the egg yolk. No remains of antibiotics could be found in the eggs laid. Because of these results the authorities allowed flavomycin to be fed to hens as well. The initial licence is for two years. But nobody doubts that there will soon be a permanent licence and flavomycin will enter normal use.

Some biochemists have described one fact about flavomycin to be unsatisfactory. It is not yet known what causes the mechanism which enables a small dose to increase the food value of animals.

It is indeed unsatisfactory but also irrelevant for the high production farmer. His only question is not why but whether a new substance works.

(CHRIST UND WELT, 26 September 1969)

Heart failure — this country's No 1 killer

Frankfurter Rundschau
Unabhängige Tageszeitung

Heart and circulatory diseases are the most common causes of death in the Federal Republic. Twice as many people die of these diseases every year than of cancer.

This information was given by the rector of Cologne's University of Sport, Professor Wildor Hollmann, to the first congress of the National Association for Health Precautions in Leverkusen.

In the last fifteen years heart attacks in men between 25 and 35 years of age have trebled. The same is true of the age range between 45 and 65. With men between 35 and 45 the number of heart attacks doubled.

Professor Hollmann named five main causes for heart attacks. They were eating the wrong sort of food, especially when it was too rich, the misuse of nicotine, nervous strain, lack of exercise and infections.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 October 1969)

X-rays endanger children

The use of isotopes in diagnosing children's diseases was the subject of a congress of children's doctors at Saarbrücken. Does this mean a revolution in the treatment of sick children?

In 1954 the National Association for the Treatment of Children decided at ist annual session to warn of the use of radioactive substances in the diagnosis of children's diseases. Doctors feared later damage to the child, especially in the form of sarcomata (malicious tumours), leukaemia, chromosome defects and concomitant genetic alterations that could lead to an accumulation of deformities in future generations.

Long term studies on later damage caused by injections of radium 224 have shown that children are indeed endangered by X-rays to a greater extent than adults. Of the 891 patients who came into contact with the radium isotope 49 contracted sarcomata. It took anything from four to eighteen years for the effects to be seen.



Sarcomata affected 21.6 per cent of the children under six who were under observation. The comparative figure for adults was 1.4 per cent. The younger the children were when subjected to radioactive substances, the more frequent were later effects. Putting a stop to the use of the isotope in the treatment of small children seemed to be justified.

But the situation has changed since 1954. Progress has been made in the use of radionuclides and they have been used in the treatment of children. The strict security precautions of 1954 have not needed revision.

It was clear from the numerous lectures given by experts at the Saarbrücken congress that different premises are now valid. Nuclear physics, electronics and exchanges between the two disciplines have progressed so much in the last fifteen years that today's recommendations were frowned upon in the past.

Nuclear physics has developed radionuclides with an essentially shorter half-life and chemical combinations of isotopes that lower the amount of radiation present in diagnosis to under the level of X-rays. This is the greatest step in this area of modern medicine.

Hand in hand with this go precision measuring instruments and computer programming. But people at the congress did not talk of a great increase in the use of isotopes for purposes of diagnosis. There is still the danger of side effects in later life, especially when combinations of iodine are used.

It was strongly emphasised that the organism could not become accustomed to radiation. On the other hand it was stressed that there was no basis for a child having a higher sensibility towards rays than adults.

(DIE WELT, 26 September 1969)

■ PROFILE

Heidegger - this century's most important thinker



More public attention has been focused on Martin Heidegger than on any other philosopher since Hegel.

But he never specially aimed for this. He twice turned down an invitation to go to Berlin and he has hardly ever attended a philosophers' congress. It was obviously his philisophy that lead to such public acclaim.

At present discussion about Heidegger has surprisingly died down. Perhaps this too has something to do with his philosophy. But what is his philosophy exactly?

His philosophy has fascinated a whole generation. His scholars include Karl Löwith, Hans-Georg Gadamer, Herbert Marcuse and Karl Rahner. They know all about Heidegger as a teacher. They can talk of the intensity of his questioning, his unrelenting demand for objective thought and perspectives on the history of philosophy.

This was already well pronounced in his impressive *Sein und Zeit* (Essence and Time) which appeared in 1927. It is little wonder that this work made Heidegger famous overnight. From the very beginning Heidegger himself termed his influence a misunderstanding. He wanted to resume the colossal battle about being. But to get people talking about the question of being he first had to talk of Man's comprehension of being and speak ontologically of existence.

He therefore concentrated on penetrative analyses of Man, his daily existence, addicted to the world and engrossed in public gossip as it was, the possibility of finding oneself in the fear and knowledge of death and oblivion, Man's dependence on his own resources and his need of liberty.

This was what made the philosophical world sit up and take notice. In his book people could see the the essence of the period between the two world wars which had lost all meaning for them. The description was admittedly not only positive. The trait of heroic nihilism that ran through *Sein und Zeit* and the defiance of a preparedness for death lead to a misunderstanding that even Heidegger fell victim to. He expressed the emotions of the generation that usurped power in 1933. Heidegger quickly saw his error. But this period of his life meant that he was not allowed to continue his activities as a teacher in the normal sense of the word after 1945.

The post-war years saw a quick succession of works from his pen. They are partly concerned with the history of philosophy. He talks of Anaximander, Plato, Descartes, Kant and Hegel. But most of his work dealt with Nietzsche and he opened up new, surprising insights into the thought of this philosopher.

Other writings by him interpret poets and their work. Special attention is paid to Hölderlin but he also deals with Rilke and George, Trakl and Benn. He expressed the problems involved in founding a new system of thought in his *Brief über den Humanismus* (Letter on Humanism) and in his profound essay *Identity and Difference*. Heidegger also stated his position on some issues of particular topicality today. He spoke of language, art and, most of all, the essence of technology.

Heidegger's real intentions were expressed more clearly in these works than ever before. Man is mentioned only *en passant*, he has become a peripheral figure. Heidegger deprives him of his central position attained in modern subjectivism and existentialism. Heidegger replaces it with the legend of essence. He speaks of it in almost mythological language, "For what is being? It is It itself. Future thought must learn how to experience and express it."

If any attempt is made to define being in Heidegger's sense it must be kept in mind that the philosopher expressly declined to recognise God or any other reason for existence. Essence is rather the full range of happenings in which Man or being, dependent on the varying epochs of the history of being, is revealed. Essence functions of its own accord in its revelatory capacity and serves historical Man.

In the present day it is primarily the negative side that appear, the convulsion of all being and the homelessness of Man. This fate of being results from extreme oblivion of being but it can be surmounted if being once again turns to Man who is straying the paths of error. That is Heidegger's hope for the future. He wants Man to listen for the call of the being and become its guardian.

This profound speculation – many of the points remind the listener or reader of Schelling or Hegel – roused the interest of his contemporaries, especially in the period shortly after the Second World War. It was not only professional philosophers who listened. Interest spread to representatives of other branches of learning and poets and artists paid heed. The number of people who adopted Heidegger's teachings, with varying degrees of comprehension, was legion. But there was also much serious adoption of the universal philosophy newly elucidated by Heidegger.

But one fact must be borne in mind: the fact mentioned at the beginning of this article that discussion about Heidegger has surprisingly died down. Nowadays other fields of interest occupy contemporary philosophers. Sociological problems come top of the list, closely followed by logistics and semantics.

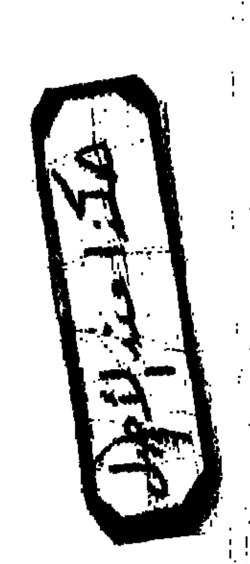
But Heidegger's thought itself can explain why people have turned away from him. He regards the alteration of reality as the task of being and not of Man. His basic premises cannot be verified by the traditional means of philosophy and what he says is more prophecy than sober analysis of actual reality.

But that does not stop people seeing in Heidegger the most important philosopher that this century has so far produced. After a period of oblivion his work could once again attain renewed effectiveness.

(Photo: dpa)

Wilhelm Weischedel

(CHRIST UND WELT, 26 September 1969)





■ FOOD

Increased meat and egg production by drugs

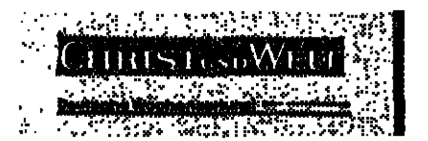
After many years of research scientists in this country have managed to find a new antibiotic. In contrast to other drugs of this type the new antibiotic will be used exclusively on animals, never on Man.

There was once a hen, the old story goes, that laid an egg. The other hens began to screech until the houswife came along, praised the hen, took the egg and carried it into the cellar. This is a charming fairy story that would delight any writer of children's books. But real life is different.

The healthy world of the chicken farms has long been replaced by fully automated cages where thousands of layers are cooped up together in a small space. They are fed by automatic feeders and are unable to scratsh about as they sit on wire netting through which their droppings fall to be carried away on a conveyer belt.

When a hen lays an egg it hardly has time to say goodbye to it. The egg is forced by its own weight into a trough where it is automatically collected, X-rayed, classified, stamped and packed.

There are almost 61 million layers in the Federal Republic. The number of hens is roughly the same as the number of humans. The profit made from them can be calculated down to the nearest thousandth of a pfennig. If all the hens in this



country could be persuaded to lay an extra ten eggs a year it would mean that another 500 million eggs produced every year and a gross profit of 92 million Marks at present egg prices. There are sign that hens will be moved to this decision before the end of this election year. It is not political reasons that motivate the hens but success in the development of a stimulant for their laying apparatus.

Flavomycin is the name of the substance that promises to have such far-reaching effect. A few weeks ago it was introduced to a panel of international journalists. Its effects are not limited to hens. It is an ideal addition to the food of all domestic creatures from beef cattle to carp.

It is added to the animal's daily fodder in homoeopathic tins and prompts in the animal a process that sounds like a sort of agricultural magic. The animals grow faster and reach their ideal weight earlier. The shorter time the animal is in its stall the more food is saved. As the animals are able to make better use of the food they are given the effect is doubled. And it has already been stated that it increases the desire of hens to lay eggs.

Flavomycin is a new antibiotic obtained, like penicillin, the first antibiotic of this type, from fungus. But it has little in common with penicillin and has been proudly described by its producers as the first of an entirely new group of antibiotics.

For years there has been heated discussion on whether it is right to feed farm animals with any sort of antibiotic. Groups of doctors and scientists have dealt with this question right up to the summer of this year. In spite of all warnings twenty million Marks are spent on antibiotics for fodder in the Federal Republic every year. The world figure is 200 million Marks. This testifies to the strength of the agricultural lobbies.

Feeding animals with antibiotics normally used in human medicine can indeed lead to serious complaints. All the antibiotic material is not excreted by the animal and can thus enter the digestive tract of human beings. A constant intake of medicaments can breed resistant strains of bacteria. Selection leads to a reshuffle in the bacterial population and different strains become more important than formerly. When things become serious they can no longer be combatted with these medicaments. The misuse of medicaments on the farmyard can jeopardise success in the doctor's surgery but it is not yet known to what extent. On top of this many antibiotics, penicillin for instance, create allergies or shock in individuals. Doctors and general practi tioners are ready for this sort of thing – but not when the drugs are distributed without thought.

In contrast to all antibiotics known up to now flavomycin does not produce allergies in human beings. Years of experiment have shown that it cannot be stored or accumulate in meat, fat, milk or eggs. Flavomycin remains in the animal's intestinal canal and is excreted as it is.

It starts to decompose only when it is on the ground. After about six weeks its effectiveness has decreased to about one seventh. No decompositional products can be found in the body of animals used. Flavomycin therefore meets the demands made by medical committees in the last few years.

But there are other reasons why it takes up a special position among modern pharmaceutical products. Work on flavomycin which looks as if it is going to force all other antibiotics out of agriculture began more than ten years ago. There has been therefore a long process of development. The average time spent in developing pharmaceutical products for medicine in from three to five years. For insecticides, crop sprays and other materials to protect crops and plants development lasts from about sic to eight years.

The reason why medical products can be developed more quickly lies in the fact that toxicological experiments can continue throughout the year while summer is the only time of year that experiments can be made into plant protection and extreme weather conditions must be avoided.

Ten years ago scientists at the Hoechst concern began to examine earth samples from Europe and Africa in the hope of finding new bacteria. They were concerned primarily with the antibiotic qualities of the hormones in the bacterial mycelium.

Finally four bacterial groups were selected and deposited in the meantime with the American type collection. Two of them, *streptomyces bambergiensis* and *ederiensis* are from the area around Bamberg and the Eder dam; One of the samples came from Ghana *(streptomyces ghanaensis)* and one from an Icelandic geyser *(streptomyces geysirensis)*.

The important thing is that flavomycin is effective primarily against streptococci and staphylococci, as well as brucellik pasteurelli and listerii. The Hoechst laboratories have demonstrated that it works by inhibiting the biosynthesis of the cells. This is proved by enriching elements in the cell wall with flavomycin.

The substance itself is composed of 48.5 per cent carbon, 7.3 per cent hydrogen, 37.3 per cent oxygen, 1.8 per cent phosphor and 0.51 per cent nitrogen. It is a non-crystalline, colourless powder of the glycolipide group and has the mol weight 1,700. No other hormones can be found in the mycelium of the bacteria. Flavomycin in pure form can be stored at room temperature for two years without loss of efficiency. Even after twenty four hours of being heated at 100 degrees centigrade it loses only twenty per cent of its efficiency. When mixed with fodder it can be kept for some years and it also lasts seven and half months in solutions of protein concentrate and minerals.

As fas as can be seen there is possibility of danger only at certain points of its application. Firstly when it is being produced and mixed, secondly when being fed to animals and lastly if animal excrement is touched. In these cases it comes into contact with human beings and can affect their skin or respiratory tract.

Apart from a mild bactericide effect there has been up to now no interference between flavomycin and other antibiotics used on humans. The danger of an allergy is not rated at all highly. Flavomycin seems to present no problems.

The substance has already received all licences imaginable to allow it to be fed to farm animals. Largescale experiments with hens have shown that a diet containing flavomycin changes neither the colour nor flavour of the egg yolk. No remains of antibiotics could be found in the eggs laid. Because of these results the authorities allowed flavomycin to be fed to hens as well. The initial licence is for two years. But nobody doubts that there will soon be a permanent licence and flavomycin will enter normal use.

Some biochemists have described one fact about flavomycin to be unsatisfactory. It is not yet known what causes the mechanism which enables a small dose to increase the food value of animals.

It is indeed unsatisfactory but also irrelevant for the high production farmer. His only question is not why but whether a new substance works.

(CHRIST UND WELT, 26 September 1969)

Heart failure – this country's No 1 killer

Frankfurter Rundschau
Unabhängige Tageszeitung

Heart and circulatory diseases are the most common causes of death in the Federal Republic. Twice as many people die of these diseases every year than of cancer.

This information was given by the rector of Cologne's University of Sport, Professor Wildor Hollmann, to the first congress of the National Association for Health Precautions in Leverkusen.

In the last fifteen years heart attacks in men between 25 and 35 years of age have trebled. The same is true of the age range between 45 and 65. With men between 35 and 45 the number of heart attacks doubled.

Professor Hollmann named five main causes for heart attacks. They were eating the wrong sort of food, especially when it was too rich, the misuse of nicotine, nervous strain, lack of exercise and infections.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 October 1969)

X-rays endanger children

The use of isotopes in diagnosing children's diseases was the subject of a congress of children's doctors at Saarbrücken. Does this mean a revolution in the treatment of sick children?

In 1954 the National Association for the Treatment of Children decided at ist annual session to warn of the use of radioactive substances in the diagnosis of children's diseases. Doctors feared later damage to the child, especially in the form of sarcomata (malicious tumours), leukaemia, chromosome defects and concomitant genetic alterations that could lead to an accumulation of deformities in future generations.

Long term studies on later damage caused by injections of radium 224 have shown that children are indeed endangered by X-rays to a greater extent than adults. Of the 891 patients who came into contact with the radium isotope 49 contracted sarcomata. It took anything from four to eighteen years for the effects to be seen.



Sarcomata affected 21.6 per cent of the children under six who were under observation. The comparative figure for adults was 1.4 per cent. The younger the children were when subjected to radioactive substances, the more frequent were later effects. Putting a stop to the use of the isotope in the treatment of small children seemed to be justified.

But the situation has changed since 1954. Progress has been made in the use of radionuclides and they have been used in the treatment of children. The strict security precautions of 1954 have not needed revision.

It was clear from the numerous lectures given by experts at the Saarbrücken congress that different premises are now valid. Nuclear physics, electronics and exchanges between the two disciplines have progressed so much in the last fifteen years that today's recommendations were frowned upon in the past.

Nuclear physics has developed radionuclides with an essentially shorter half-life and chemical combinations of isotopes that lower the amount of radiation present in diagnosis to under the level of X-rays. This is the greatest step in this area of modern medicine.

Hand in hand with this go precision measuring instruments and computer programming. But people at the congress did not talk of a great increase in the use of isotopes for purposes of diagnosis. There is still the danger of side effects in later life, especially when combinations of iodine are used.

It was strongly emphasised that the organism could not become accustomed to radiation. On the other hand it was stressed that there was no basis for a child having a higher sensibility towards rays than adults.

(DIE WELT, 26 September 1969)

THE ECONOMY

How to revalue the Mark without appearing to do so

The Mark exchange rate is floating temporarily. In effect this is like a revaluation. Without using this word, which has become so ominous to many people, the Mark is worth about four per cent more (on 30 September) on foreign exchange markets.

The value of the Mark is changing from day to day, and there are virtually running reports on how its value changes and will continue to change in the next few days. The fluctuation is influenced by supply and demand.

As far as currency exchange markets are concerned this is the pure culture of economics. But of course this situation will only last for a few weeks at the most, since no neighbouring country in a world of fixed exchange rates can afford to allow long-term free exchange of a foreign currency.

Members of the International Monetary Fund will most certainly force the Federal Republic back to the old order of fixed parity, when the new government has been formed.

Despite all the shortcomings of the outgoing government they are being complimented as the take their final bow! They have plucked up the courage to achieve something which most people had given up hope of ever seeing.

The boldness of the operation means that Economic Affairs Minister Karl Schiller is the hero of the day. He has won praise by putting into practice what he firmly believes in, the cause, which in theoretical form brought him a temporary setback.

Needless to say, the way to this economic decision was paved with gross lies. Both major parties put it in writing on the eve of the election that they were not about to embark on economic plans. In fact the decision they have taken is of far-reaching consequences.

But it is generally accepted that no action can be taken in this sphere without "little white lies". The finance and economics world do not deal in sayings but in action.

The fact is that for a long time there has been one action which the Federal Republic could not avoid – they could not escape taking steps to make sense of the currency exchange situation.

Everbody who prided himself in May that the revaluation he did not want had not come, and that the evil speculators had been beaten at their own game, must now be fully aware that these same speculators have been crying all the way to the bank ever since.

Since May foreign currency has been flooding into the Bundesbank, and the Bank has had to convert at the official rate. According to many economic prophets the Bank will have a hard time getting rid of all these dollars.

The losses must be borne by the man in the street. Rhetorical brilliance has come to grief on the jagged rocks of hard economic fact. This trial-and-error method of finding out has been highly costly. But all this is now in the past and should be forgotten.

For the present and the immediate future the new instrument is a free exchange rate. Yesterday we did not have the courage to introduce this. Tomorrow the courage will have drained away. This is the method which could put world currency exchange markets, so long a leaden-footed and recently a kind of bill-jobbing between nations, on a firm footing.

Flexible exchange rates do not recognise that unreal, stilted type of fixed parity, which takes no account of the actual buying power of a currency within a country. Prices develop in different directions in differing countries, the one of which may be cursed with inflation, the other blessed with price stability, so that the official exchange rates no longer tally.

Free exchange, or a floating currency really sorts out the sheep from the goats. The economic dawdler pays for procrastination with a low exchange rate and devaluation, whereas the smart operator and diligent worker receives the incentive of a kind of automatic revaluation.

It is only because this system might prove too embarrassing for many a country in the modern technological age, where the order of the day is full employment, that floating currencies and long-term free exchange are ruled out.

It makes no difference that this is the fairest situation and that it is incorrect to think that full-employment (not over-employment) is incompatible with price stability.

Free exchange rates force countries into exercising discipline in their economic policy.

Since prices in the Federal Republic, though rising to a certain extent, are still not climbing so rapidly as in other major industrial nations, the floating Mark is equivalent to Mark revaluation and dollar devaluation. The present level (30 September) is four per cent, but this is expected to rise.

The rate for the dollar cannot sink much lower, however, since the market trends are completely counterfeited. As soon as the speculator bird has feathered his nest there will be no more stray dollars. Moreover, orders from abroad for Federal Republic goods have been paid for in advance.

But the dollar exchange rate should not slide to an unlimited extent. For this reason the floating currency experiment is obviously confined, within national borders, and the government of this country as well as the Bundesbank have set firm points of intervention at the six per cent mark.

This is a fairly clear indication of the rate at which the new parity will be set officially when the floating Mark experiment is over.

There are two factors which speak against an extreme rise in the Mark exchange rate. For a start, we in this country do not want our brave experiment to succeed at the expense of other countries – we have no desire to upset the delicate balance of the already problematic currency situation in the world at present.

Secondly we do not want to put too great a burden on our own export market by making our export products too expensive.

It has already become clear that despite the limits set on this experiment, restricting the lengths to shich it should be carried and the duration of its effectiveness, it is a scheme which has immediate and startling beneficial effects, but must not be allowed to get out of hand.

If an importer can now buy dollars cheaply he can also import cheaply and can undercut the prices of the European Economic Community with ease. France has already fallen out of the EEC by devaluing earlier this year and the Federal Republic's floating Mark no longer fits into the scheme of things.

Our exports are no longer protected by an unrealistic exchange rate. Competition is growing harder, the domestic market is becoming more interesting and the number of contracts on hand when the present backlog has been cleared may well be far fewer.

Free exchange rates can well be a regulator for all aspects of the economy which have become excessive. They can level off all the disturbing aspects of an overheated economy.

They could lead to the opposite extreme, however, if the Bank of Issue were to release on to the open market its large resources of dollars.

The steep drop on the stock exchange of share prices in companies – particularly those dealing with an export market – such as the motor industry shows how the climate has changed, thanks to an operation which for most people is incomprehensible – the introduction of free exchange rates.

These measures have to be handled with extreme care. It is as important that they are regulated in the same way as revaluation and devaluation, where the right moment and the right figure have to be judged to the nearest second and the nearest decimal point.

So the fact that the experiment has begun with just four per cent "revaluation" is to be welcomed. In the end this may rise to eight per cent. It is essential for us to preserve our economic boom, but we must tone it down until it has reached a reasonable level, which will ensure stability. the free exchange rate or floating Mark may be just the tonic our economy needed.

Franz Thoma

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 1 October 1969)

Floating Mark threatens EEC farm policy

Just a few weeks after the French upset the agrarian price system of the European Economic Community (EEC) with their franc devaluation, another unilateral economic measure, this time from the other side of the Rhine in the Federal Republic, has hit the EEC farms policy hard.

The integration policy, as its defenders and supporters call it, can not bear the strain. Once again it has been shown that partial integration is nonsensical if it is not supplemented by complete cooperation in other spheres, particularly in currency and economic policies.

Discussions are still going on to settle the after-effects of France's decision to change the parity of the franc. Now the whole round of debates, conferences and decrees will begin again in Brussels, in sessions with representatives of all six Common Market countries.

There will be extraordinary meetings of the European Commission and probably of the Ministerial Council, too.

This time some far more concrete results must be achieved if the whole concept of the European agrarian policy is not to be dropped.

The basis of the communal agrarian price system is standardisation, a planned communal currency policy for prices on the EEC agricultural market, based on the fixed gold price equivalent of the American dollar.

The standard price is set with the help of this "green dollar". But farmers are paid in their own native currency. This means that as the parity of the various currencies changes the farmers' incomes are "revalued" or "devalued".

At the same time, actual changes to parity, such as the French devaluation lead to a difference in competitiveness within the market, including in the realms of agriculture. The answer to this is to adjust prices at frontier posts, so that advantages and disadvantages are levelled out.

This is what happened after the franc was devalued. EEC ministers decided that the advantage which French farmers obtained should be cancelled by taxing exports and subsidising imports.

The latest development in this country is not a change of parity as such, but merely means that the Bundesbank is no longer allowed to determine rates of exchange and the value of the Mark can rise and fall freely. With the market in its present state this is not far removed from a de facto revaluation of the Mark.

Now a scheme for levelling out advantages and disadvantages at the border posts must be introduced in order to prevent cuts in the importing of farm produce.

If communal agrarian prices are to be maintained measures which are completely opposite to those taken after the French devaluation must now be introduced to help Federal Republic farmers after our quasi-revaluation.

If this is not done then it would be farcical to talk of a common agrarian market, with such complicated situations obtaining in France and in this country.

It is even more difficult to make a decision – at least for a certain transition period – when there has been no actual revaluation, but just a freeing of exchange rates for the Mark.

It would mean that the measures to be taken at the borders would have to be altered day by day, or even more often, and frontiers would become like banks and stock exchanges!

It would be possible to introduce a fixed ruling to apply only during this transition period. Afterwards a new fixed ruling could be applied, as after the franc devaluation.

Agrarian experts in Brussels are doubtful whether this solution to the problem will have much point, when a system of levelling out advantages at border crossing points in conjunction with price adjustments has already been put into action following the franc devaluation.

The only other alternative would be a complete revision of the agrarian policy in the EEC, which has been on many people's lips for a long time, particularly when the massive surpluses and the question of Britains's entry have been under consideration.

If the intention is to set newer, lower prices – which would be very difficult, when political considerations are taken into account – then it is quite possible that a ruling affecting the whole Continent would be put into operation.

Whatever happens in the near future on the European Common Market agricultural scene, the disturbances in the economics of member countries, coming right on top of one another, have brought a decisive change in European agrarian policy so much to the fore that basic changes are virtually unavoidable.

These changes will have very much to be said in their favour. It has become clearer than ever before that partial integration, even if it is organised to the point of perfection, is of no use.

EEC ministers must find new yardsticks.

Eberhard Wisdorff

(DIE WELT, 1 October 1969)



OCEANOGRAPHY

Industry explores seabed resource possibilities

In July 1969 a number of leading Federal Republic industrialists clubbed together to form an "economic association to explore techniques to exploit the sea for industry". At the time the general public took little notice of this.

Meantime the number of member companies has risen to sixteen. They are largely organisations in the steel, electronics, machinery, aviation, mining and machine tool industries.

The aim of this organisation is to "preserve and promote the general economic achievements of the firms in question with regard to the exploitation of the oceans for industry".

The association states for the sake of landlubbers what the specific aims of industrial submarine research are, that is to say: to obtain raw materials and food from the sea, to cleanse the sea and keep it free from pollution, to protect the coast from erosion and to build equipment for underwater research and mining.

Further aims are to manufacture materials to be used in conjunction with this underwater equipment and to embark on research and development programmes in this sphere.

It is not without good reason that the first-mentioned aim is to obtain raw materials, since this is an especially interesting new activity, which, in the course of the next few decades will gain tremendous importance.

Man's requirements for raw materials are not increasing in direct proportion to the increase in world population – which should have doubled by the year 2000 – but at a substantially greater rate. As the standard of civilisation in their countries leaps forward the developing nations are requiring greater supplies of raw materials.

As far as the Federal Republic is concerned one great problem which submarine research could help solve is the disturbing inadequacy of this country to supply its own needs for important metals.

Only in the case of zinc and lead can this country contribute an amount worth mentioning to its own requirements. The Federal Republic produces 32 per cent of the zinc needed in its industry and 19 per cent of the lead required.

As far as copper is concerned the figure is 0.25 per cent, and for aluminium it is 0.21 per cent.

There are no supplies at all of the metals which will play a great role in future industrial techniques, such as nickel, titanium, cobalt and tin. Federal Republic industry consumes about ten per cent of the output of the world's mines, but contributes only about one per cent.

If our industry is to maintain its position as an important re-worker of mineral products from the world's mines, then our annual requirements of ores and metals will increase between four- and tenfold in the next thirty years.

Experts consider it very unlikely that prices and conditions on the world market for non-ferrous metals will be maintained at the present level for a long period.

The difficulty in obtaining supplies alone is forcing us to turn our attention to the sea for these raw materials.

Off shore drilling for oil is nothing new. Americans have invested 8,000 million dollars in this branch of the oil industry. One sixth of the world oil output now comes from rocky layers on the sea bed. Estimates say that one fifth of world oil reserves are to be found in these submarine rocks.

Oil and natural gas sources are found above all in the continental shelf and sea-bottom. But there are indications that large supplies of oil are to be found at great depths far out to sea, for instance in the Gulf of Mexico.

Continental shelves are usually designated as being strips of underwater rock up to 650 feet below water level.

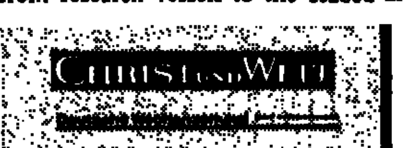
Mineral treasures have been exploited in the past using conventional underground mining techniques. The British obtain about en per cent of their coal by this method. The Japanese botain thirty per cent of their coal by digging tunnels from the mainland or offshore islands out into the undersea rocks.

Completely different techniques are required for minerals and raw materials lying loose or free on the upper surface of the ocean floor. Nowadays diamonds are mined from the coast around South Africa, tin from the Malaysian coast and sulphur from the Gulf of Mexico.

Industrial research is now being aimed in cirections other than conventional mining methods. Completely new technological processes are necessary to discover, collect and estimate the value of mineral products from the bottom of the sea.

The cost of this research is far from small, but it is expected to pay for itself in one way or another. For one thing, as demand for mineral raw materials rises in future it will be necessary to use tried and tested, but still compartively expensive mining techniques on sources which are running low or on the point of exhaustion. The output from these mines will no longer justify the effort and expense involved.

Exploration is conducted by means of television cameras which are lowered from research vessels to the seabed and



give a preview of the terrain before divers are sent down.

At present only a small fraction of the ocean floor has been scanned. In order to carry out a more systematic exploration of the Earth's below surface treasures much closer international cooperation is necessary.

Whereas mining on land requires about eight years to elapse after discovery of the seam before the mineral treasures can be exploited, since sinking a shaft and the like is a long and costly business the treasures of the sea are available almost immediately they have been located.

Investment capital for these sources is almost always ready, in contrast to mining ventures on land.

When one source has dried up, or if political difficulties arise making the programme impossible, the control vessel simply has to up anchor and move on to the next source, whereas on land, dismantling equipment and transporting it to new pastures can be time- and money-consuming.

Seabed mining does not involve the difficult process of shifting rock and rubble in most cases. Ores obtained from underwater sources tend to be fine grained, making it much simpler to refine them.

Often the site where a mine is started is outside territorial waters and no concessions have to be paid to neighbouring countries. It is only to be hoped that the countries involved do not decide to cash in on treasures in neighbouring waters and extend their coastal limits.

The obvious advantages of seeking industrial raw materials beneath the waves are offset by many imponderables, which can only be cleared up after long and detailed research and practical experience. This applies as much to techniques for exploiting the newfound treasures as to the problem of locating them.

It is relatively simple to obtain heavy mineral placers from depths of up to 120 feet by means of suction dredgers or bucket chain dredgers.

Placers are fine grain minerals, which have been pulverised by erosion in rivers or by the power of the surf.

Geologists differentiate between heavy (sic) heavy minerals (gold, platinum and tin among others), light heavy minerals (rutile, zirconium, chromium and the like) precious stones (such as diamonds) and finally sand and shale. Placer mines are situated in calm waters right near the coastline.

Phosphate mounds lie at greater depths than placer deposits. They are usually between 650 and 1000 feet down.

They can normally be pumped up through pipelines or dredged in large wire baskets which are dragged over the sea bed.

"Federal Republic industrialists are burning to start on this underwater project. They are keen to be the first to benefit from the exploitation of the sea.

So far it is the Soviet Union, the United States and Japan which are most deeply involved in underwater exploration.

Washington has granted 600 million dollars to submarine research in its budget.

Federal Republic industry is not entering the competition without some prior knowledge of what it is all about. This country has already done much valuable pioneering work, above all in diving techniques, methods of measuring and ways of purifying sea water.

Experts from this country consider our potential with regard to knowledge, funds and engineers to be sufficient to help us to economic success in certain specified areas of underwater research and development.

The main prerequisite is to be prepared at all times. At the moment there is a servere shortage of research vessels.

It is no good, however, waiting for countries to give concessions or permission to exploit the sea bed, because by that time competition will be strong.

Many legal matters have still to be cleared up, such as the way the seabed is to be divided between various countries and how underwater projects and submarine policies are to be organised.

According to custom the sovereignty of a coastal state over the waters that surround it, the seabed and the substrata of the seabed stretches for three nautical miles from its coast.

However, many nations whose economy depends to a large extent on fishery have agreed on a twelve mile zone of territorial waters. This limit could become general when the use of the oceans becomes greater in years to come.

(CHRIST UND WELT, 3 October 1969)

■ LABOUR RELATIONS

Unions no longer masters in their own business ventures

Trade union owned firms in this country employ roughly 240,000 people and make millions in profits every year. They include the fourth largest commercial bank in the country, one of its largest life insurance companies and the largest housing concern in Western Europe. Union contributions have developed into thousands of millions of Marks, major capitalist firms run on capitalist lines. The management of trade union owned firms, of all companies, used to take a dim view of worker participation. As recently as February last year the unions rejected for their own concerns the degree of worker participation practised in the coal, iron and steel industries for twenty years. Yet worker participation along these lines is demanded by the unions for the rest of the economy. Not until accusations of dual standards and lack of credibility gained in momentum did the leaders of the Trade Union Confederation (DGB) give the go-ahead. On 4 February 1969 the DGB national executive decided in principle to introduce worker participation in the three largest trade union owned firms, Neue Heimat, the housing giant, Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft, the union bank, and Volksfürsorge, the insurance concern. Exactly a week after Federal Minister of Labour Hans Katzer had publicly called on the Unions to set an example for others the first agreement with Neue Heimat was signed.



"We are delighted that worker participation is to be introduced here," comments Werner Staak, works council chairman of Neue Heimat in Hamburg. As staff representative he played a large part in drafting the worker participation agreement for the largest housing concern in the country. "Not the least gratifying aspect," he adds, "is that opponents can no longer ask when we are going to introduce worker particpation in our own companies."

According to the agreement, which has been signed for an initial period of five years between the DGB as the owner of Neue Heimat and the two unions, IG Bau, the construction workers union, and HBV, the clerical, banks and insurance workers union, the owners and staff are to be equally represented on the supervisory board of the parent company with its 31 subsidiaries.

Equal representation on the board has in the past been limited to the coal, iron and steel industries. It is mandatory for limited and joint stock companies and mining owner unions employing over 1,000 staff and largely mining coal and ore or producing iron and steel, taking turnover as the criterion. The supervisory boards of these companies are elected on a complicated basis that ensures equal representation for owners and workers.

By means of the agreement with Neue Heimat and the forthcoming agreements with Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft and Volksfürsorge the trade unions are meeting in their own management sector at least the demands made by the DGB in 1967 for the coal and steel model to be adopted by all firms either:

— employing more than 2,000 people,
— turning over at least 150 million Marks a year
— or having more than 75 million Marks on the statement of accounts.

These criteria applied to all three of the major trade union concerns.

Up till now the 29-man Neue Heimat supervisory board has contained nine workers' representatives, including seven members of staff. Now ten staff representatives will pit their wits and interests against ten trade union officials, probably chairmen of industrial unions, representing the employers. There will be equal representation on the committees too.

The twenty-first man, the so-called neutral member who holds the casting vote on controversial decisions, cannot be elected against the will of a majority of management or staff representatives. In Neue Heimat's case the staff representatives would prefer the neutral member to be Heinz-Oskar Vetter, DGB chairman.

Seven of the ten staff representatives (as against four in a coal and steel board of comparable size) are actually members of staff. One represents the DGB, one the building workers union, one the trade, banking and insurance workers union.

The seven staff members are elected by a full conference of 100 works councils from all over the country. The other three are nominated by the three unions concerned after consultation with the works council conference, a group of sixteen leading works councillors.

Werner Staak does not believe that there will be difficulties with the unions in selecting the three non-staff members.

"When all is said and done the workers have yet to vote against the union representatives in our firm." On the other hand, he adds, the staff are not going to stand for straight union nomination of these three.

"If we are not agreed on who they are to be the supervisory board will not be meeting. Without us there will not be a quorum. We feel this is an adequate safeguard should anyone want to nominate a member in whom we have no confidence."

As in the coal and steel industries the staff also have the right to appoint a full member of the board of directors who is mainly responsible for personnel and welfare issues. He can neither be appointed nor sacked against the will of a majority of staff representatives on the supervisory board.

The second agreement with Bank für Gemeinwirtschaft is about to be signed and the unions are still haggling over details with Volksfürsorge, the insurance company. The cooperative movement holds a stake in both and has yet to give its approval.

For the time being this worker participation model is to be limited to the big three. A total of 143 trade union controlled finns exist at home and abroad but by no means all of them fulfill the size requirements of either the coal and steel model or the trade union concept.

For smaller and small firms neither would in any case work because they tend to have neither a supervisory board nor a large enough board of directors.

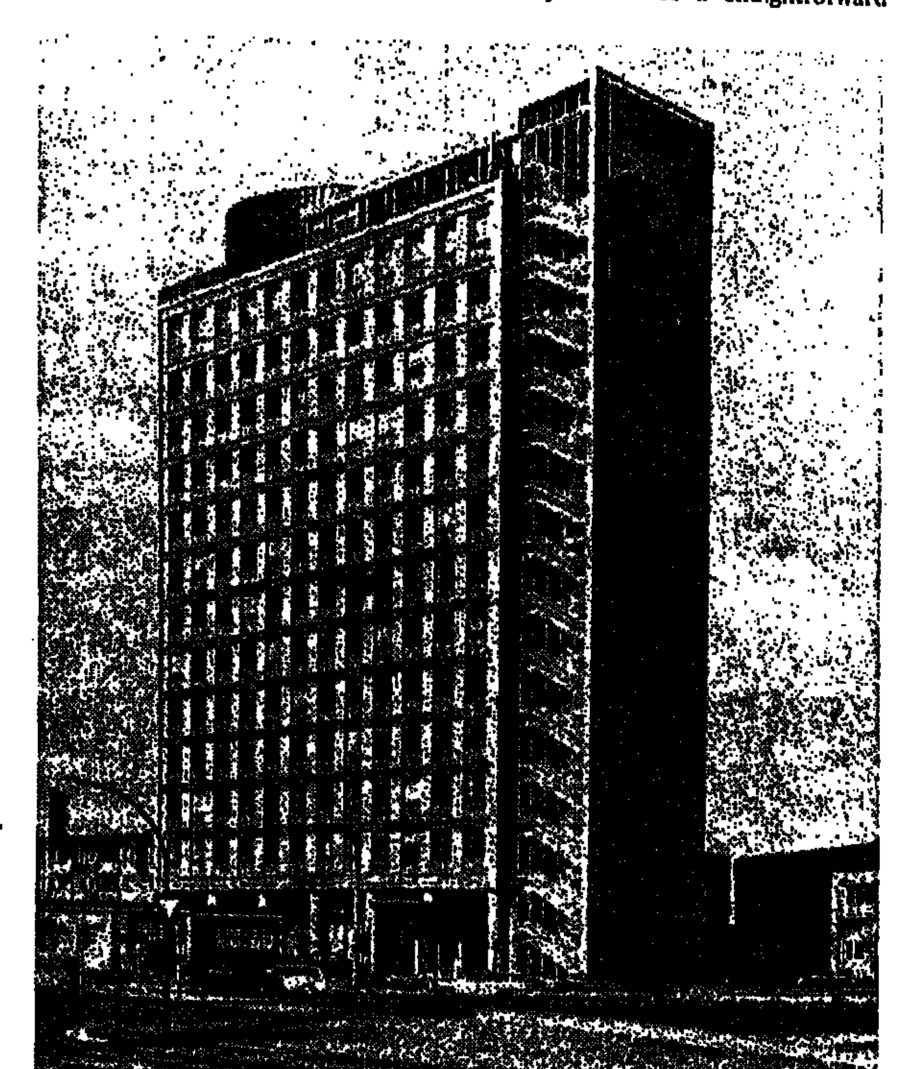
The DGB would like to show by its own example that even outside the coal and steel industry worker participation does not limit the ability to compete and that worker participation can be brought about by means of a straightforward wages agreement rather than by force of law or violence.

The DGB does not intend to forget smaller firms either. It demands more rights for the works council, particularly a say in appointments, dismissals and transfers from one department to another. "In smaller firms solutions for the future wil certainly need to be sought," Werner Staak notes. "I am convinced they will and I know of works councils that intend to go about it."

It remains to be seen to what extent the Neue Heimat model can really serve as a basis for other firms. The two sides of the table unquestionably have equal representation but since they are all trade unionists they are unlikely to fight themselves.

Karl-Heinz Preuss

(DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT, 21 September 1969)



Thirty-one subsidiary companies of Neue Heimat have offices in this building, a thirteen-storey building in Hamburg's business centre. Neue Heimat employs 3,500 people and is the largest house-building concern in Europe. By the end of 1968 the organisation owned 230,000 flats and houses in the Federal Republic.

(Photo: NEUE HEIMAT/Benecke)



Acute shortage of highly trained technicians

Süddeutsche Zeitung
MÜNCHNER NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN

Continued boom in the metalworking, electrical goods and construction industries has led to a growing demand for engineers and technicians.

The is a particular shortage of designers, university-trained engineers and engineers and technicians with specialised knowledge of development, testing, process engineering, sales, distribution and servicing.

Prospects are also good for production engineers with experience in rationalisation and data processing. Skilled technicinas are also in brisk demand in the construction industry.

At an engineering conference in Nuremberg representatives of a labour market and professional research institute disclosed that there are fewer engineering students this year than last — a worrying development.

Spokesmen for the Federal Ministry of the Interior expressed regret that modern technological development is paid too little attention in school textbooks and neglected altogether in maths textbooks.

A representative of the Federal Labour Institute in Nuremberg strongly advocated the introduction of careers information teaching at schools to prepare young people for professional life in good time.

The Association of Federal Republic Engineers decided to draft recommendation for vocational guidance teaching.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 September 1969)

30 per cent will be unskilled still in 1974

Hamburger Abendblatt

Working people in this country will continue for the next few years at least to be below the level of professional training of their opposite numbers in other countries, according to a survey conducted by the Rhenish Westphalian Institute of Economic Research in Essen.

In 1974, the institute concludes, thirty per cent of the working peopulation in this country will still have no professional qualifications. In five years' time only 13.3 per cent of the country's labour force will have reached the four highest levels of education: university, technical college, professional and trades college.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 2 October 1969)

■ ROAD SAFETY

Drinking and driving discussed at Freiburg conference

When a motorist drives around the Sahara with three promille of alcohol in his bloddstream he is unlikely to cause any trouble. When he drives around Schlossplatz in Stuttgart or through the concrete jungle of Manhattan the physical and mental strain is so great that even a small amount of alcohol makes him unfit to drive and a danger to other road-users.

Among specialists in the field the level of unfitness to drive is considered to be between 0.5 and 0.8 promille. Countless tests conducted all over the world leave no doubt as to the fact that a motorist with more than 0.8 promille of alcohol in his bloodstream is no longer fit to cope with today's road traffic.

The agreement on this point reached by medical specialists and scientists from Eastern and Western Europe, America and Asia was one of the most important conclusions reached at the Fifth International Conference on Alcohol and Road Safety held recently in Freiburg.

More than 250 specialists, including lawyers, police officers and representatives of Transport Ministries at home and abroad made it clear that this country, with a maximum permissible level of 1.4 promille tolerates an unparrallelled maximum that is scientifically no longer justified.

Comparable levels are tolerated only in a number of states in the USA, among them Florida with a maximum of 1.5 promille. One promille is the level normally permitted in the United States.

The conference, which was held for the first time in this country, is not intended to be a gathering at which crucial scientific discoveries are made known to the world. The International Committee on Alcohol and Traffic endeavours to collate experience gained in various countries and coordinate efforts to decide on international standards on all issues connected with this important aspect of road safety.

There is general agreement on the methods of determining the amount of alcohol in the blood. They have been so perfected that there is little argument about the results. Where the differences do lie — and they are considerable — is in the interpretation and evaluation of readings.

This is due, Freiburg forensic scientist Professor Wolfgang Spann stressed, to the long and intensive development of conflicting views in individual countries prior to efforts to arrive at an international common denominator. It was clear at the Freiburg conference that opinions on the result of a blood alcohol test can even differ considerably among specialists in one country.

A working party at the conference accordingly urgently recommended that uniform regulations and principles be formulated. In view of the diametrically opposed interpretations that are still made it was decided to set up a permanent commission designed to contribute towards international standardisation by means of promoting the exchange of information. With so many motorists driving in other countries this would also increase the safety of the individual as regards the respective legal situations.

Determining the amount of alcohol in the blood is not the be all and end all of unfitness to drive. Everyone reacts differently to different amounts and kinds of alcohol. The reactions of one person may vary according to the circumstances.

In discussing of alcohol tolerance it was agreed that the susceptibility of the individual to alcohol remains constant between the ages of twenty and fifty. Under twenty and over fifty alcohol has a considerably greater effect.

It is well known that body weight, speed of calorie combustion and reabsorption affect susceptibility to alcohol. Relatively adequate tests have been carried out to bear out he relevance of these and other factors, such as the weather and ill health. Diseases of the liver and the central nervous system are particularly dangerous and functional disturbances can also have a serious effect.

Habituation to alcohol, on the other hand, reduces its effect, but not to the extent that a motorist's faculties are not affected. It was stressed at Freiburg that no medicaments are known to exist that reduce the influence of alcohol. Yet there are any number that intensify the influence of alcohol or vice-versa.

The influence of medicines on motorists, it was clear at Freiburg, is continually increasing in importance. Medical checks on 10,000 Swedes involved in road accidents revealed that 2,300 of them had taken medicine of some kind or other before driving. The difficulty is, of course, that with the equipment at present in use it is next to impossible to detect the slight doses of medicine involved.

As drugs also from part of this complex and the use of medicaments is steadily on the increase there is bound to be a definite shift in emphasis in the conference's work over the years to come. New methods will need to be worked out and international agreement reached on concepts and evaluation of the entire complex.

Alcohol is not merely a problem on the roads or even on the ground. Alcohol and air traffic in an aspect that has been somewhat neglected in the past.

It is evident that the physical and mental strain on airline pilots is even greater than that on motorists and other road-users. All the more surprising, then, that there are still no uniform regulations on the consumption of alcohol by aircraft pilots.

Otherwise the working party that dealt with the topic would hardly have seen fit to demand uniform international regulations imposing a complete ban on drink not only for flight but also for ground personnel. It was even suggested that the crew should not be allowed to start until taking a blood alcohol test.

On one other point, though, the commission on alcohol and traffic was forced to capitulate for lack of detailed information. As yet satisfactory data are not available on the influence of alcohol in space.

(STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, 1 October 1969)

■ THIS ODD WORLD

Best Munich Oktoberfest for many a year

The first week of Munich's *Oktoberfest* on the *Wies'n* took place in glorious sunny weather. Satisfaction was felt all round. Munich had been most fortunate in that the rain had kept off. Every day the sun shone and it was hot. Every day, then, was very hectic. But the *Wies'n* was never so crowded as on the Saturday. It was the high point of the year. The *Wies'n* was fairly crowded but there were not so many people this year because of the recent elections. Munich families included with their visit to the polling booths a family outing to the Oktoberfest.

"The first half on the Oktoberfest was extraordinarily good," said Dr Max Schottenhamel, on of the Oktoberfest organisers. "After the annoyances that had occured in previous years there was real pleasure. While in previous years it had poured with rain, this year not only the beer tents but also the gardens were full of people."

Süddeutsche Zeitung
MÜNCHNER NEUESTE NACHRICHTEN

On the Saturday there was hardly a place to move. People doing business on the *Wies'n* were kept very active. On the roads it was almost impossible to move ahead. There was no pleasure unless the visitor was prepared to stand in a queue patiently.

The number of beers that were downed cannot yet be calculated. People also ate a lot. In the roasted ox booth more than 22 beasts were put on the spit.

Only traffic policemen were unhappy about the whole business. They complained that motorists lacked good sense. As soon as the police began to direct traffic drivers turned onto the *Theresienwiese* and again blocked the traffic, preventing others from parking.

A Police spokesman said that parking places were available in the city centre but that people preferred to struggle out to the Oktoberfest in their cars rather than park in the city and take the tram out to the *Wies'n*. All the parking places near the *Wies'n* were taken by ten in the morning, the overflow parks were full by twelve and by one in the afternoon the more distant park places were crowded to capacity.

Long queues of cars congested the roads to Munich on both days of the weekend.

"It is nothing new that the Oktoberfest is always less popular when elections are on than in other years, "Dr Schottenhamel reported. "For forty years is has been possible to notice this fact. In the main country people come to town on Sundays. They have to leave early for home, but if on that day they have also had to go to the polling booths then they have less time to amuse themselves an the *Fest*."

All in all the people on the *Wies'n* were a mixed crowd. Foreigners were there by the hundreds. Most of the reserved places were taken early and by Saturday and Sunday there were no more reserved seats to be had.

Generally speaking despite the crowds there was less confusion on the *Wies'n* this year than in previous years. No one was killed and there were no severe injuries to anyone. One or two legs and arms were broken in minor motoring accidents and in the punch-ups that always occur at these events. There were no fights involving many people.

The Red Cross had to deal with a few cuts and bruises which were inflicted when customers became a little worked up and used their beer mugs to some purpose.

In the recovery tent every day on average there were from five to nine drunks sleeping off the effects of their over-indulgence. When they had got over their inebriation, for better or for worse, they could totter home or in some cases they were fetched by irrate wives. More than 200 lost children were also 'found' by the ever-hardworking Red Cross.

Every evening the Fire Brigade stood anxiously by. Daily between ten and eleven in the evening there were about 18 false alarms made by malicious persons. The brigade would start off but return angry from the call. Fortunately there were no real fires that the brigade had to deal with at all.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 29 September 1969)



A group of young people in national dress at the Oktoberfest
(Photo: Christl Reiter/Fremdenverkehrsamt München)

Runaway girls return contrite

Young girls leave home, breaking connections with family, friends and work mates, usually because they fear punishment at home, have difficulties with their parents or are bitten by the wander-lust.

This year in Lower Saxony no fewer than 242 teenage girls 'cleared off'. Many of them returned home after a few days, weeks or months, contrite and broke. Some were found and returned to their parents. But there are still 18 of the 242 girls who have disappeared without leaving a trace.

Many of the girls plan their flight with great care. A 12-year-old girl had her hair dyed red so that she would not be recognised. A 16-year-old girl laid out all her clothes on the bank of the River Weser and then dressed herself in clothes she had bought before leaving home. A 19-year-old left in an abandoned hotel room a glass containing the remains of a strong sleeping draught so that the police would assume that she had committed suicide. A little later she was found in Austria. She had not taken any sleeping drug.

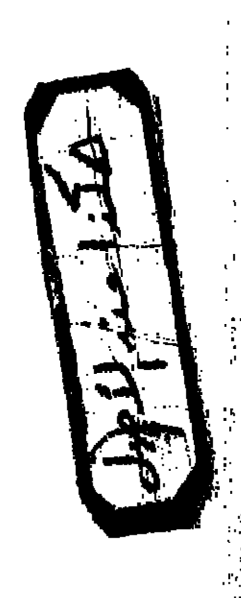
There are in this country about 200 girls who have fled home. For weeks, months, even years in some cases, no trace is found of them since they disappeared. Police spokesman believe that these girls will never again be traced. They have disappeared for good.

Cars are often involved in accidents which cause death and a girl is discovered in the wreckage. More than once their bodies have been found in the undergrowth of a deserted wood or at the side of a motorway, or on a river bank.

According to estimates issued by police in the Federal states, in the past year 72 girls out for a good time or hungry for adventure were picked up on the way home from a dance and never seen gain.

There are, however, cases on record of girls who have disappeared for twenty years or more and then they have suddenly been discovered. The 16-year-old who left her clothes by the Weser nor far from Hamelin is now living in Leipzig. A 16-year-old girl who disappeared from Hanover - 19 years ago - is now in a revue in Paris, married. Another girl from Hanover, missing for eight years, has now been discovered working as an interpreter in Canada.

(Hannoversche Presse, 30 September 1969)



What girls seek in a husband

The sex wave has not spoiled the youth of this country, according to a survey conducted in 17 towns and cities by the Iltmann Institute for Sociological and Psychological

The survey showed that fifty per cent of girls want the man-to-be to be of 'good character'. He should be polite, true, honest, understanding, mature, reliable and considerate.

To more than third of the girls questioned 'money, property and security' were the basic needs for a sound marriage. Only 23 per cent listed love and tenderness as being the motives behind their choice of a partner.

The young men questioned – more than two-thirds – asked that their partners should be 'tender'.

Contrary to the girls the young men emphasised that physical attraction was important in their choice of a wife. She would have to have sex appeal.

Only 3.4 per cent of the youngmen wanted to have a wife who was what could be called 'clever'.

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 30 September 1969)

Survey of cultural interests of 17-year-olds in the Ruhr

More than a half on the 17-year-olds in the Ruhr are ignorant of the cultural life that surrounds them in their home towns. As many as 49 per cent have never been to the theatre and only between six and seven per cent watch television. These statistics were published recently after a survey conducted by Professor Joachim H. Knoll on behalf of the Education Institute attached to Bochum University.

Professor Knoll said: "We have too many notions, ideas and clichées about our 17-year-olds. We think of them as a rebellious generation and are amused or astounded by them. The scale stretches to both extremes – great consideration to sheer idiocy.

"It is possible to suggest that cultural affairs are way outside the interests of 17-year-olds, as far from their interest as say political matters that they do or do not come up against every day of their lives. The survey we have just carried out indicates that the degree of acquaintance with political and cultural affairs are closely related."

Professor Knoll and his colleagues lays great stress on mass media of communication for the political and cultural education of this country's youth. He has been able to prove what has until now only been assumed. The press plays an important function in informing young people of what is going on. Professor Knoll who made his enquiries in the Ruhr has expressed surprise that his discoveries are applicable to the country as a whole.

His most enlightening discovery is that a young 17-year-old who is well informed in cultural and political fields is an avid newspaper reader.

The statistics show that ninety per cent of 17-year-olds read the local paper, twelve per cent read the national papers, 75 per cent read the popular press, (of course here the social status of the family and the influence of the home plays a considerable part) illustrated newspapers and magazines are read by about 87 per cent, and 31 per cent read the Sunday papers. To some extent the figures for watching television were surprising. Until recently the most general view is that 17-year-olds, along with 14- to 15-year-olds held aloof from television because they considered that it was rather old hat. Both of these assumptions have not been confirmed.

Young people watch television to a considerable extent. The statistics indicate that 27 per cent watch the screen for more thaten hours a week. And the more elderly schoolchildren come out quite plainly for appreciation of television. Light entertainment amuses 26 per cent, and this is top of the list. Educational transmissions are watched by six per cent and this comes seventh on the list.

People who maintain that cultural and educational matters are of little interest must revise their estimates. Young people consider as important questions of health, building, accommodation but cultural matters are given far less attention.

It is then of no surprise that sixty per cent of the yount people questioned by Professor Knoll in his survey were totally ignorant of the cultural amenities in their home town. But rather more shaking is the fact that 49 per cent of the young people who took part in the survey had never seen the interior of a theatre.

(WELT am SONNTAG, 28 September 1969)

■ SPORT

Sports ability and psychic make-up examined

Würzburg sociologists have been commissioned by the Federal Republic Sports League (DSB) to research into whether or not good sporting performances are dependent on certain psychic peculiarities.

The departments of psychology and physical education of Würzburg University hav now completed the first stage of the research project. Nearly a hundred first-rate athletes selected from the amateur athletics association's best in 1967 were asked what qualities a successful athlete in their own discipline must have.

Research so far has been limited to two field (long-jump and javelin) and two track (sprint and middle distance) disciplines.

In order to gain as complete a picture as possible athletes in all four disciplines were asked in the questionnaire to assess the importance of 75 pairs of qualities, such as sensitive or insensitive to noise, easily irritable or calm and collected and the like.

Each of these qualities could be subdivided into various degrees of emphasis, so allowing those asked to supply even more detailed data. The 75 categories referred to either perfomance or character in general. The following differences came to light.

– It is most important for the javelin thrower to be insensitive to noise. The sprinter is the athlete who can most afford to be sensitive to it.

– Field men cannot afford to let themselves be disturbed by events and movements in the vicinity. Again, the sprinter need worry least about his surroundings.

– Estimation of distance is more important for all field men than for sprinters.

– Long-jumpers must concentrate most on a single point. Medium-distance runners need do so least.

– Mobilising every last ounce of energy at a single moment is important for all, but least important, again, for the middle-distance runner.

- Off all categories the javelin throwers must be least prono to dizziness.

– Field athletes need most to have a feeling for rhythmical movement. Medium-distance runners, again, least need this feeling.

– Middle-distance runners also need least to coordinate successive movements of body and legs.

– They also least need to be able to keep the body in one position for a certain period of time.

– Field athletes need more to carry out movements in accordance with a definite plan than runners do. Of the runners the sprinters most need this ability.

– Javelin throwers most need to balance their bodies in a certain position. Middle-distance runners least need to do so.

– Estimating speed and the limit of bodily strain are equally important for all.

The questionnaires, evaluated by an EL X 8 computer, reveal that the javelin throwers describe themselves more than the runners as emotionally stable (disciplined in behaviour but still uninhibited and open-minded).

Short- and middle-distance runners, on the other hand, appear to be more introspective. Javelin throwers base their behaviour more on objective criteria, can adapt to others more easily than sprinters and mix with others more easily too.

"Here too," the study, which is shortly to be published, comments, "the 'emotional stability, self-assurance and adaptability' of javelin throwers as seen by themselves particularly contrasts with the 'introverted irritability' of sprinters." "The greatest difference in personality is that between javelin thrower and sprinter," comments psychologist Willi Seitz.

At a later date other disciplines are to be tested, but the present study must first be complemented by a comparison in test psychology. Only then will it be clear whether the athletes' subjective assessment of themselves is confirmed by means of further scientific methods.

Project director Professor Wilhelm Arnold, head of the department of psychology, notes that "the results are intended to provide detailed insight into the personality structure of representatives of various disciplines."

The use of these and future insights is that the selection of athletes on the basis of psychological test procedures will be made easier. They will also provide hints for sport education and therapy and, last but not least, enable money allocated for top-flight athletes to be put to more appropriate use.

In addition to the athletes more than 100 twelve-year-old schoolchildren were tested in a similar manner. In this instance too certain features of character, revealed by means of a special children's questionnaire, encourage or inhibit movement behaviour.

In order to check this fact the schoolchildren were made to practice the long-jump, throwing the ball and the fifty-metre sprint and their gym reports were noted.

Also, a test procedure was spec. developed and employed to assess bo mobility, leg movements, sense o. rhythmical movement and coordination of movements in a ball game.

It transpired that the motor, i.e. compulsive activity of a child, as ascertained by means of the questionnaire, favourably affects all sporting activity undertaken, but particularly the long-jump and gymnastics.

Children who are self-assured, not to be taken out of their stride and generally carefree are capable of sporting activity calling for special physical dexterity – certain gymnastics exercises, for instance.

Willi Seitz recalls the astonishing effect of the questionnaire. "The child did not need to demonstrate his or her actual or presumed sporting talent on the field or in the gym. We can tell from the questionnaire which children are more likely to be good at sport."

The Würzburg project is virgin territory. Not even in the United States has research of this kind made much progress.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 27 September 1969)

Records fall like ninepins

Wonders never cease. Two young ladies who take competitive sport to the utmost limits of physical capacity and profess to enjoy every minute of it are to blame.

Liesel Westermann's 209 ft 10 in. discus throw in Hamburg must have annoyed older observers of the sporting scene. Did not Gisela Mauermeyer win the Olympic gold medal in 1936 with a throw of 156 ft 11 in. and was she not at the time the world record holder with a throw of 158 ft 3 in.?

Thirty-three years later blonde discus Liesel from Leverkusen has thrown the disc past the sixty-metre (196 ft 10 in.) mark on fifteen occasions. Her fantastic latest throw hardly came as a surprise.

She realised that with a facing wind and a little luck a new world record was within reach. In no throwing event, not even among the men, is the distance between the best and the second-best so great.

Heide Rosendahl, also of Leverkusen, had meanwhile reached 5,155 points in the pentathlon. Had she not overstepped the mark on one of her first two long-jumps of over 21 ft 8 in. she would have reached 5,250 points or so.

As a rule world records do not nowadays last long. It is a tribute to hurdles specialist Martin Lauer that his 13.2 sec. of 1960 has since four times been equalled but not bettered. The second-oldest world record, Peter Snell of New Zealand's 1 min. 44.3 sec. for the 800 metres in 1962, has also only been equalled – by Ralph Doubell of Australia at Mexico City in 1968. Then comes Valeri Brumel of Russia's 7 ft 5 3/4 in. in the high-jump, which has stood since 1963. In all other disciplines records are falling like ninepins.

The next elusive distance to be reached seems likely to be the seventy metres in the men's discus. Ricky Bruch of Sweden has thrown the discus more than 236 ft on several occasions in training. The present world record is held by Jay Silvester of the United States with a throw of 224 ft 6 in. In Frankfurt in 1961 he became the first discus-thrower to pass the sixty-metres mark.

It can be predicted with some degree of certainty that the hammer-throwers will pass the eight-metres (262 ft 6 in.) mark at Munich in 1972, while the javelin men seem likely to pass 95 metres (311 ft 8 in.), which will mean that they will have to run up underneath the stands. At the recent European championships in Athens they had to throw diagonally across the field because the stadium was too small.

Synthetic tracks, hazardous to the ligaments of middle- and long-distance runners though they may be, and muscle-forming preparations, which are not forbidden, will, together with even more refined training methods and tests, ensure that youngsters do not stop short at the present record and would-be record distances – not even at Liesel Westermann's 209 ft 10 in.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 30 September 1969)

Fewer All-German sports events

All-German sporting contacts have reached an all-time low, according to statistics for the first nine months of this year compiled by the Federal Republic Sports League (DSB). During this period a mere twelve encounters in this country were attended by 146 athletes from the "German Democratic Republic" (GDR), while thirty meetings in the GDR were attended by a total of 755 participants from this country.

This would seem to indicate that the Federal government's decision at the beginning of July to tolerate the flag and anthem of the GDR under certain circumstances at international sporting meetings in this country has yet to have a positive effect on intra-German sporting contacts.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 3 October 1969)

Aden	SA $ 0.05
Afghanistan	Af 10.—
Algeria	DA 0.60
Angola	Esc 1.—
Argentina	$ m n 45.—
Australia	10 c.
Austria	S 3.—
Belgium	bfr 6.—
Bolivia	$ b 1.50
Brazil	N. Cr. $ 0 35
Bulgaria	Lev 0 05
Burma	K 0 60
Burundi	F. Bu. 10.—
Cambodia	R 4.40
Cameroun	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Canada	Can. $ —.20
Ceylon	cR —.60
Chile	Esc. 0.60
Colombia	col. $ 1.—
Congo (Brazzaville)	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Congo (Kinshasa)	Makuta 7.—
Costa Rica	C 0.85
Cuba	P 0.13
Cyprus	11 d
Czechoslovakia	Kcs 0.50
Dahomey	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Denmark	dkr 0.90
Dom. Rep.	RD $ 0.15
Ecuador	S 2.50
El Salvador	C 0.30
Ethiopia	Eth. $ 0.30
Fiji	11 d
Finland	fmk 0.50
Formosa	NT $ 5.—
France	FF 0.60
Gabon	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Gambia	11 d
Germany	DM 1.—
Ghana	cedi 0.12
Great Britain	11 d
Greece	Dr 4.—
Guatemala	Q 0.15
Guayana	BWI $ 0.20
Guinea	F.G. 30.—
Haiti	G 0.65
Honduras (Br.)	$ BH 0.20
Honduras	L 0.25
Hong Kong	HK $ 0.70
Hungary	Ft. 1.—
Iceland	Kr 5.—
India	Rs 0.80
Indonesia	Rp. 15.—
Iran	Rl 10.—
Iraq	50 fils
Ireland	11 d
Israel	I £ 0.40
Italy	Lir. 80
Ivory Coast	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Jamaica	11 d
Japan	Yen 50
Jordan	50 fils
Kenya	EAs 0.25
Kuwait	50 fils
Laos	Kip 60.—
Lebanon	P 40.—
Liberia	Lib $ 0.15
Libya	50 Mills
Luxembourg	lfr 6
Madagascar	FM 30.—
Malawi	11 d
Malaysia	M. $ 0.40
Mali	FM 60.—
Mexico	$ 1.50
Morocco	DM —.65
Mozambique	Esc. 1.—
Nepal	Mohur 1.—
Netherlands	Hfl 0.50
Netherlands Antilles	G. ant 0.25
New Zealand	9 c.
Nicaragua	C 0.85
Niger	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Nigeria	11 d
Norway	nkr 0.90
Pakistan	Rs 0.60
Panama	B. 0.15
Paraguay	G. 15.—
Peru	S. 3.50
Philippines	P. phil 0.60
Poland	Zl. 0.50
Portugal	Esc. 1.—
Rhodesia	11 d
Ruanda	F. Rw 12.—
Rumania	Leu 0 50
Saudi Arabia	RL 0.60
Sweden	skr 0.60
Switzerland	FS 0.50
Senegal	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Sierra Leone	Le 0.10
Somalia	Sh So 0.90
South Africa	Rand 0.10
South Korea	Won 35.—
S. Viet Nam	V.N. $ 15.—
Spain	Pts 8.—
Sudan	PT 5.—
Syria	£ S 0.50
Tanzania	EAs 0.25
Thailand	B 3.—
Trinidad and Tobago	BWI $ 0.20
Togo	F.C.F.A. 30.—
Turkey	T £ 1.25
Tunisia	65 M
Uganda	EAs 0.25
UAR	PT 5.—
Uruguay	P 20.—
USA	$ 0.20
USSR	Rbl. 0.10
Venezuela	B 0.60
Yugoslavia	Din. 1.—
Zambia	11 d